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ROGER REMEMBERED

This month's issue is something of a strikers special, with a celebration of Mo Salah's 100-and-counting Premier League goals and Sadio Mane's own century of strikes for the Reds, plus a retrospective of Ian Rush's LFC career as he turns 60 this month. Deeply sad though it's been to lose the great 'Sir' Roger Hunt, it is perhaps fitting that he appears alongside those other great Liverpool marksmen in the club's official magazine. The Spion Kop, of course, recognised his place in the Anfield pantheon on heroes with a striking mosaic ahead of the Premier League match against Manchester City.





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AXA Know You Can

Sir Roger

SIR ROGER HUNT 1928-2011

SIR ROGER HUNT

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NOTE TO MATT BEARD...MAYBE
LEIGHANNE ROBE SHOULD BE
PLAYING IN GOAL?



CORNER TAKEN QUICKLY



Just like Barcelona in 2019, the page
where you don't know what to expect...

5

HIDDEN ANIMALS

Peter **BEAR**d'sley
Jason **MC**ATeer
Darren **POT**TER
Jordan **HEN**derson
Rickie **LAMB**ert

16th October.
Nobody born on this
day has ever
played a first-team
game for LFC.

OUR LADS HAVE COME FROM ALL OVER THE PLACE

Takumi Minamino (Izumisano, Japan)

The city of Izumisano is located in Japan's Osaka Prefecture and Takumi Minamino was born there in January 1995. The estimated population of around 101,000 went up by one very talented future footballer that day.

If you've not got a map of Japan to hand, Izumisano is a four-hour train-ride from Tokyo via Kyoto. Two-and-a-half hours of that journey are on one of Japan's speeding bullet trains, some of which can reach 375mph. You'd get a decent pace-rating on FIFA for that.

Izumisano's Kansai International Airport is unique. Built on an artificial island in Osaka Bay and opened four months before Taki was born, it has the longest airport terminal building in the world at a mile long – making it slightly longer than the walk across Stanley Park

between Anfield and Goodison Park. But with a roof and less grass.

Japan's third tallest building, an 840ft, 56-storey skyscraper called the Rinku Gate Tower Building, is in Izumisano. Word on the street is the views from the 54th floor observation deck are mint.

Taki isn't Izumisano's only famous son. Manchester City's Ryotaro Meshino, on-loan at Estoril, is from the same area.

As was Hinenno Hironari, a Japanese samurai warrior in the 1500s.



RANDOM OLD CHANT OF THE MONTH

Show them the way to go home,
They're tired and they
want to go to bed,
'Cos they're only half
a football team,
Compared to the boys in Red, oh!

SHILLI-TITI

10 men with one Liverpool FC Premier League assist

Dean Saunders v Sheffield United (1992)
Julian Dicks v Everton (1994)
John Scales v Derby County (1996)
Jari Litmanen v Middlesbrough (2001)
Jan Kromkamp v Newcastle United (2006)
Martin Kelly v Blackpool (2011)
Nuri Sahin v Norwich City (2012)
Lazar Markovic v Southampton (2015)
Dominic Solanke v Stoke City (2017)
Nathaniel Phillips v Man United (2021)



WHEN YOU'RE
TRYING TO KEEP
YOUR MATE OFF
THE DANCEFLOOR
AFTER AN ABSOLUTE
BANGER COMES ON

BLAGGING IT

One of these statements is true, the
other two aren't. Can you suss it out?

- Harvey Elliott has got a dog called Shankly.
- Jordan Henderson has got a racehorse called Captain.
- Mo Salah has got a cat called Boss.

Answer: Mo Salah has a cat called Boss, named by his daughter. Harvey Elliott's dog is called Paisley and Hendo's horse (co-owned with team-mates) is called Mr McCann.

THE JORDAN HENDERSON AWARD FOR BEST LATE SHIFT

"When I had my injury it was [physio] Chris Morgan who was up until 2am researching the techniques that could help advance my recovery."

TRUE FAITH

Goalkeeper Alisson Becker on the unbreakable Liverpool FC bond and the profound personal belief which guides his life on and off the pitch

HOW DO YOU LOOK BACK ON THAT INCREDIBLE GOAL AGAINST WEST BROMWICH ALBION LAST SEASON NOW?

It was a great moment but at the same time a difficult moment. I'm still living my life and what that goal represents is bigger than just scoring a goal. It was really important for the targets we had to achieve at that time in order to go to the Champions League this season. I think for myself and the way that I see life, I really felt that God was giving me a gift – something of a happy moment in a really difficult moment of my life.



DID YOU FEEL THE FAMILY CLOSE AT THAT POINT?

Yes of course, because definitely after the match everybody was obviously enjoying it a lot, especially the players. I called my brother, I called my mother on FaceTime and it was amazing to speak with them. I just wanted to have them together with me there at the stadium. Imagine also if we'd had fans at the ground! That would have been something amazing.

ON THE FOOTBALLING SIDE, WAS THAT THE MOMENT WHEN YOU REALLY FELT LIKE THE TEAM WAS GOING TO FINISH IN THE TOP FOUR?

Maybe, but I think you always need to look at what's happening around you and at that moment it was really difficult for us. We were at one point as if we were not trusting too much anymore. I think everybody was losing a bit of faith, but scoring that goal and winning that game brought us to reality and to really trust in what we were capable of doing on the pitch.

That was a big part of what helped us to make sure we qualified for the Champions League for this season.

SO HOW GOOD WAS IT TO FINISH THIRD IN THE END AND GUARANTEE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FOOTBALL AGAIN?

It was something great for us in the end. But of course, at the beginning of the season, if you could see where you might finish and you'd said third, then you would not have been too happy because we want to be champions at the start of the season.





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But with a lot of things that happened during the season with us – injuries, bad things that happened to some of the players, some of us were struggling a little bit with performances as well – yes, I think it was a great achievement to finish the league season in third place.

Giving the due respect to the other teams, to finish in front of Chelsea and Leicester – teams who really did a good job during the season – and just behind Manchester United and a Manchester City team that did an amazing Premier League season. So it was a tough season and in the moment and the world we were living in, I think we did quite well considering everything and finishing in third place was good.

But this season we want more. Definitely.

We trust in ourselves and each other and we really enjoy the group here – we probably spend more time with our team-mates than with our families

IT'S BEEN GREAT FOR THE FANS TO SEE SUCH TOGETHERNESS WITH SO MANY OF YOU COMMITTING YOUR FUTURES TO THE CLUB...

It is really important because we trust in ourselves and we trust in each other and we really enjoy the group we have here. We have a good relationship with everybody and we probably spend more time with our team-mates than with our families. So we are a kind of family here, we are friends and we are also here to do our jobs. I'm really happy that myself and the other boys have been making new deals with the club.



YOU SEEMED TO SETTLE INTO LIFE AT LFC VERY QUICKLY...

It is not easy when you change country and you change club. I have changed twice and it wasn't easy for me. But I have had really good people helping me.

Professionally speaking, on the pitch the people who really helped were our goalkeeping coaches Johnny [Achterberg] and Jack [Robinson], the manager himself, Pep [Lijnders], Pete [Krawietz], all of the staff and the players as well. They made me feel really comfortable to play and to be here and to be myself.

And then when the results are coming and it is happening on the pitch, that gives you more and more confidence and then it is just natural.

IS THIS SEASON ALL ABOUT REGAINING THE PREMIER LEAGUE TITLE?

It's about more than that to be honest. We want more. Of course we want to win all the tournaments that we play in. We want to win the Champions League, Premier League, FA Cup, Carabao Cup – all the tournaments that it is possible for us to play in. This should be the goal and the target for everybody for a team like us. But we have to take it game-by-game and we must be focused on our jobs to do 100 per cent what we have to do.

YOU MUST BE PLEASED BY THE TEAM'S START TO THE SEASON...

Yes, I believe we are doing pretty well. Of course, there are still a lot of things to improve but we are already playing good football and having really, really good moments during the matches.

Maybe we need to fight more for the consistency but this is something that will come during the season where we can play more consistently, both defensively and offensively.

It's too early [to talk about title contenders] but the Premier League is always difficult. In the last seasons, I think the teams are getting stronger, not only the top teams but also the other clubs are doing really well. I think we are doing a good job so far but, of course, it is still very early in the season.

YOU NOW HAVE VIRGIL VAN DIJK BACK IN FRONT OF YOU – HOW MUCH STRONGER ARE YOU WITH YOUR FULLY-FIT NO4?

Yes, even stronger. We already have a top team and having Virgil is somebody who is really important for us. He is someone who gives you confidence on the pitch, with his presence but also with



his qualities as he can give so much for you defensively but also attacking-wise in setting up the move.

Look at the first home match of the season against Burnley where he made a fantastic long pass to Harvey [Elliott] in the build-up for the second goal. So, yes, he is an amazing player.

WHO TALKS MORE OUT THERE ON THE PITCH, YOU OR HIM?

I don't know. We like to talk as we like to help each other. Of course now with the crowd it is not something that is as easy as it was last season, but having the crowds back are making the games special again for us.

YOU ARE NOW BACK INTO THE RHYTHM OF PLAYING THREE MATCHES A WEEK – IS THAT SOMETHING YOU ENJOY?

Normally I prefer it when we have a full week because then you have more time to prepare the games but when you are in good shape you want to keep on going and keep on going and so it can be a good thing for the team. Then in these times you have to focus more on rest and being prepared for the next challenge.

Your focus must always be on the next game and the next challenge and this is how we approach these periods.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PRE-MATCH RITUALS?

I am not superstitious but normally what I do in the morning of the matches is drink my mate (a type of tea) and I always like to read the Bible too. I read it every day and so on matchdays it is no different for me.

I always try to treat it as an ordinary day. It is only in the last two hours before the match that I try to really come to the right mood and bring the focus totally to the match. I try to be as relaxed as possible and then I can perform my best on the pitch and be really confident.

I really like to hear some music too that brings me in the right mood and that is what I do before a match.

WHAT TYPE OF MUSIC DO YOU LIKE TO LISTEN TO?

Before a match I most like to listen to gospel music. The group that I listen to the most is Hillsong United. They have really good music that helps me spiritually and mentally it puts me in a good mood.





SHUTTING IT OUT

Most league clean-sheets for LFC

- 226 Ray Clemence
- 184 Bruce Grobbelaar
- 134 Pepe Reina
- 126 Elisha Scott
- 98 Tommy Lawrence
- 72 David James
- 63 Arthur Riley
- 56 Sam Hardy
- 50 Simon Mignolet
- 49 Jerzy Dudek
- 48 Alisson Becker

Correct to Manchester City on 3 Oct 2021

WHAT IS THE BEST ADVICE THAT JÜRGEN KLOPP HAS GIVEN TO YOU IN YOUR CAREER?

Jürgen is a really special manager. You can't say only one thing because every day he is helping us. He's helping the team just with the way that he deals with everything. But for myself especially, I think he gives me a lot of confidence to do everything



Football without fans is not football. The feeling you have to have your supporters with you on the pitch is fantastic, to have them on our side. They can be an extra player on the pitch for us

I need to do on the pitch, to perform at my best and be in my best shape.

The way that he deals with everything makes me feel comfortable to play and to do what I love to do.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PLAYING IN SOUTH AMERICA AND EUROPE?

Well, the ball is the same! But for me the biggest difference is the quality of the pitches here in the Premier League, and the finances. When you speak about South American football and European football, you can speak about money too. That is a difference. The clubs in Europe have more power to bring in better players – the best players – and I think this affects the game as well.

But we still have really competitive football in South America. I was really happy playing in the Brazilian first division and the Copa Libertadores. I always dreamed about that competition when I was a kid and to play in it was really, really good for me.

HOW WAS YOUR LIFE IN BRAZIL AND HOW DID YOU AND YOUR BROTHER BECOME FOOTBALLERS?

Back in Brazil I had a normal life. Like most of the kids, I always loved to play football. I always wanted to be a goalkeeper because it was a position that I always admired. When I was really, really young – about six or seven years-old – I would play with the friends of my older brother [Muriel] and I would always

finish in goal because I was the small one and the last to be chosen! But I started to like playing in goal.

My brother had the same history. He is five years older than me so when he started to play, I started to look at him and learn just by watching him. Then when I was ten years old, I started to play at Internacional, my former club. I became a professional player and played there until I was 23 and then I came to Europe. That was my life. I think it was a normal life except for the fact that I was a football player.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BEST EXPERIENCE IN YOUR CAREER?

I think every day is the best experience. I believe there are many special moments: playing for the team that I always supported when I was a kid, Internacional, winning titles for my clubs, playing in Italy, winning the Champions League, playing in the World Cup with the national team, winning the Premier League.

There are many memories but I can't say the best one because I really believe that more are coming.

HOW GOOD DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE FANS BACK THIS SEASON?

It is amazing. I think football without fans is not football. The feeling you have to have your supporters with you on the pitch is fantastic, to have them on our side. They can be an extra player on the pitch for us and also they help us with the way we play, pushing us forward and giving that extra energy for us in the game when it's needed. I'm really happy to have them back.





SIXTH SENSE

The nature of the football calendar means that most anniversaries of Jürgen Klopp's appointment as Liverpool FC manager on 8 October 2015 have occurred during international breaks. But plenty has gone on just before and after that special date over the last six years



2016

As Jürgen approached a year in the Anfield hotseat, the Reds came from 1-0 down to beat Swansea City 2-1 at the Liberty Stadium – Roberto Firmino equalising and James Milner (left) netting the winner from the penalty-spot – on 1 October.

They returned to action on 17 October 2016 with a 0-0 draw against Jose Mourinho's Manchester United at Anfield. Visiting goalkeeper David de Gea made a couple of big saves to deny Philippe Coutinho and Emre Can but was helped by having a bus parked in front of him! »





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2017

Jürgen's second anniversary as Reds boss coincided with his team making a stuttering start to the season.

Liverpool were in the midst of a run of just one Premier League win in five games with a 1-1 draw at Newcastle United, Philippe Coutinho on the scoresheet, followed by another goalless draw against Jose's Red Devils at Anfield (below) with De Gea again denying the Redmen.

They made Maribor pay for it a few days later in the Champions League, though, winning 7-0 in Slovenia (bottom) to set a new club-record away win. We won't mention the scorers as we'd be here all day.





2018

On the eve of Klopp's third anniversary, Pep Guardiola's Manchester City came to Anfield. Unlike their neighbours they tried to attack, but like their neighbours they also got a 0-0 draw and probably should have won only for Riyad Mahrez to blast an 86th-minute penalty over Alisson's crossbar.

Nobody knew it at the time, but Liverpool and City would go on to slug out an epic title race with the Mancunians just edging it by 98 points to 97. The only game LFC lost was at the Etihad, but the Reds were soon taking over.





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WALK ON

2019

Three days before anniversary number four for the boss, Liverpool were digging out what proved to be a momentum-maintaining win at home to Leicester City.

With 21 points from seven games already on the board, Sadio Mane's goal and James Milner's 95th-minute penalty (below)

outfoxed Brendan Rodgers on his Anfield return.

A poor challenge by Hamza Choudhury left Mo Salah with an ankle injury and as the Kop celebrated an eighth win from eight, Klopp joined them with a triple fist-pump, each earning him a huge cheer. The Reds stayed top all season.





2020

The world was a different place when Jürgen's fifth anniversary arrived with games played behind-closed-doors and supporters only allowed to gather by the half-dozen after the Government introduced the 'Rule of 6'.

But while pubs could only let six in, Liverpool were letting seven in at Villa Park. The champions were without Alisson through injury plus Sadio Mane and Thiago through COVID, but a 7-2 defeat at Villa Park was an absolute shocker.

It was the first time the Reds had conceded seven since a game at Spurs in 1963. But we got over it.





NEW SEASON FASHION

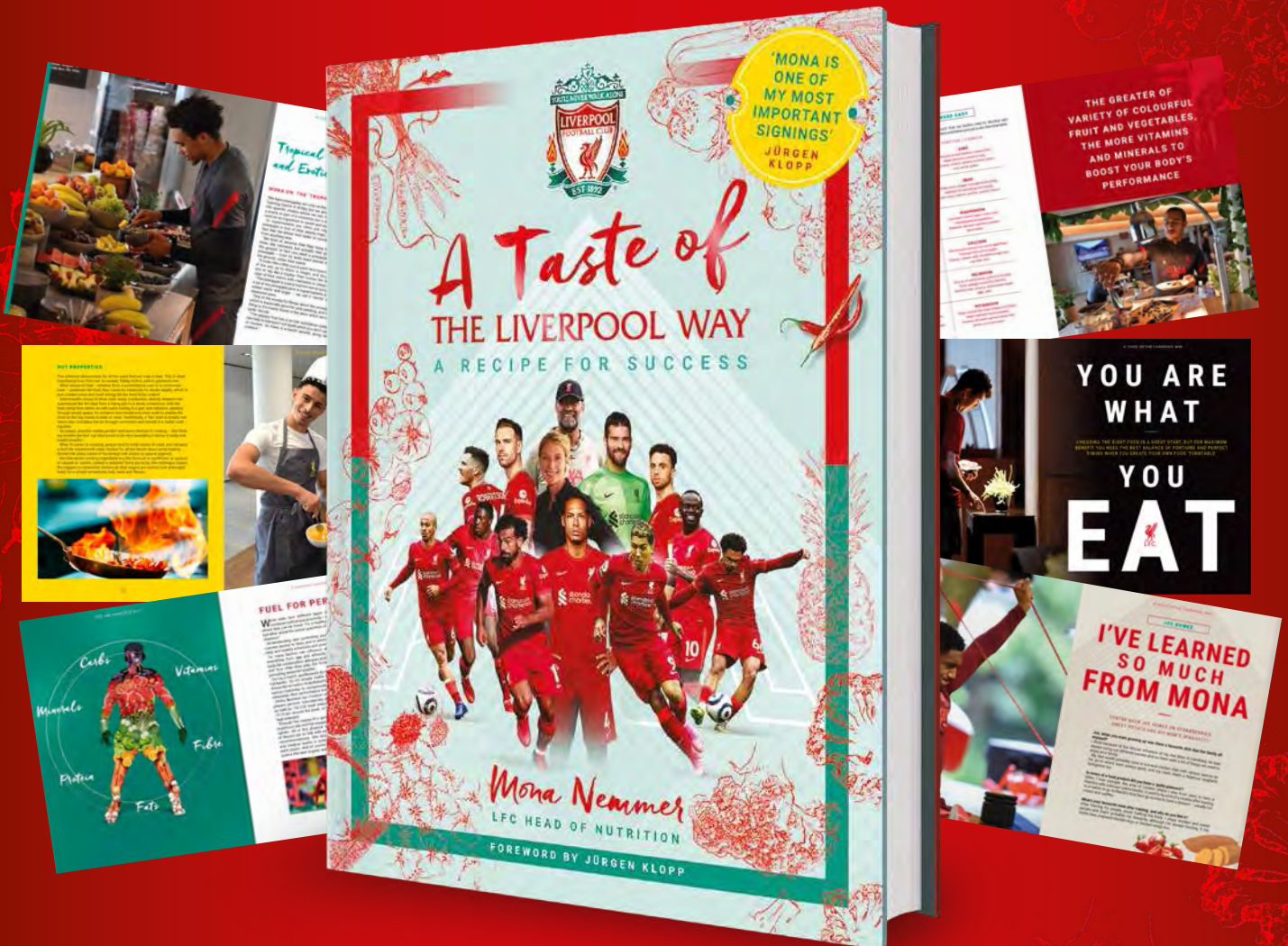
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'MONA IS ONE OF MY MOST IMPORTANT SIGNINGS'

'This book gives our fans the chance to learn about nutrition from Mona – just as our players do!'

JÜRGEN KLOPP



Liverpool FC's head of nutrition **Mona Nemmer** makes sure that the Liverpool FC players eat the right things in the right way and at the right times. In this fascinating new book she shows fans of all ages what food can help them to be healthy like their heroes and shares favourite recipes of the football superstars.

Available from liverpoolfc.com/store and reachsportshop.com

2021

For the fourth time in six seasons, Jürgen Klopp's managerial anniversary coincided with a Manchester club visiting Anfield – and it proved to be a cracker with a 2-2 draw against Guardiola's Cityzens.

Sadio Mane opened the scoring from a Mo Salah pass and the Egyptian King netted perhaps the best of all his Liverpool goals with a thumping right-footed finish after a mesmerising run left the City defence floundering.

It put the Reds second in the table as the only unbeaten side in the Premier League, in addition to being top of their Champions League group, on Jürgen's sixth anniversary as manager of Liverpool Football Club.

Boss that'...





A KNIGHT'S TALE



Roger Hunt was a modest Lancastrian lad blessed with power and athleticism, an unerring eye for goal and a natural sense of style



Roger Hunt may have been a 'Bill Shankly boy' but he was actually signed by previous Liverpool manager Phil Taylor in the summer of 1958. Seven years later he'd score at Wembley as the Reds finally won the FA Cup for the first time, in the days when the city of Liverpool had become the centre of the universe to a soundtrack of Beatlemania and the Spion Kop, Ee-aye-addio and *She Loves You*.

By then he'd formed a lethal strike-partnership with Ian St John, who'd arrived in 1961, with the duo sharing a Reds dressing-room for most of the Swinging Sixties.

If Roger was worshipped by Kopites as the sharpshooter of Shankly's barnstorming team, he was also as much a heart-throb as local crooner Billy Fury with whom he sported the same be-quiffed hairstyle.

Not that he ever let it go to his head: two hundred and eighty-five goals in 492 appearances, and hardly a hair out of place all along. He was LFC's top-scorer for an incredible eight consecutive seasons (1961/62 through to 1968/69) and registered 12 hat-tricks along the way. Ian Rush eventually overtook him for goals scored in all competitions, but Roger's total of 245 in the League is unlikely ever to be beaten – fancy a go, Mo?!

In the club's first tilt at the European Cup in 1964/65, he scored in every round up to and including the famous semi-final with Inter Milan, and he was also part of England's legendary World Cup-winning team – Hunt's medal from 1966 is in The Liverpool FC Story museum at Anfield.



SIR ROGER IN HIS OWN WORDS

SIGNING FOR LIVERPOOL IN 1958

"They'd been checking on me after a recommendation from their former centre-half Bill Jones, who'd seen me playing for Stockton Heath. I was offered the chance to play at Anfield: £14 a week in the season, £12 a week in the summer. This sort of money may not seem a lot now but at the time, with a maximum of £20 still in force, it looked a fortune."

HIS LIVERPOOL DEBUT

"I was not too happy about my performance in the first half of my debut against Scunthorpe. The pace was a bit hot for someone almost straight out of amateur and army soccer. But soon after the interval, Jimmy Melia slipped a quick free-kick to me from the edge of the box and I hit it, first time, almost without thinking. The ball shot past Kevin Hardwick in the Scunthorpe goal, hit the bar and glanced down into the net. A goal in my first game and I was so happy I could have picked up the Liver Building and carried it to Culcheth!"

BILL SHANKLY

"Although he has never wavered in his belief that Liverpool are *the* club, Bill Shankly is more than a mere mouthpiece for what goes on at Anfield. Bill is a deep thinker about football and the club's rise from Division Two to the present position of challengers for every trophy is due more to him than anyone else."

BOB PAISLEY

"Bob has done a lot to help me and the other lads, both with his skill at 'mending' us and with his Geordie sense of humour. He is such a nice fellow that sometimes it is almost a pleasure to have him go to work on us!"

BREAKING RECORDS

"The match against Rotherham at Anfield [in 1962] was one for me to remember. I heard that I'd been chosen for England, so gaining my first cap, and then scored my 37th goal of the season in league games, beating the club record set by Gordon Hodgson in 1935/36. The crowd gave me a terrific ovation and the club later presented me with a gold watch to mark the occasion. I have never been unduly



Ever unassuming, Roger once said of his formative years with Liverpool: "I knew perfectly well that I wasn't an out-and-out natural, the sort who can make a ball talk, so it was down to me to compensate for it in other ways. I made up my mind that if I didn't succeed at Anfield then it wouldn't be for the lack of determination.

"From the first day I threw myself into training, ran and tackled for everything and practised my ball skills at every opportunity."

He was eventually handed a first-team debut by Taylor in September 1959, against Scunthorpe United at Anfield. He scored in a 2-0 win. "We were one-nil up when we got a free-



kick around the hour-mark. [Inside-forward] Jimmy Melia spotted me and played a short pass into my stride and I looked up and hit it instinctively. I knew it was in as soon as I struck it. I can't describe how good it felt to see it smash in off the crossbar. It wasn't in front of the Kop but it made me feel so much more confident for the rest of the game.

"It was a big moment for me but there weren't many celebrations afterwards. I had a cup of tea and luckily enough my father had been at the game so I managed to get a lift back home with him!"

Roger would score 23 goals in that debut 1959/60 season which saw Shankly replace Taylor as boss in December and the Reds finish third in the old Second Division. The following season, 1960/61, he found the net another 19 times as Liverpool again took third-place.

In the 1961/62 campaign the Reds roared back to the top-flight after eight years in the wilderness, with Hunt scoring 41 goals in as many games and St John netting 18 in his own impressive debut season.

In 1962/63 both forwards reached the 20-goal mark in all

competitions as Liverpool consolidated their place in the First Division with an eighth-placed finish. Then came the title-winning season of 1963/64 and 31 Hunt goals (including four and two assists in a 6-1 home win over Stoke City) to St John's 21.

The FA Cup win of 1964/65 was the highlight of a season in which the duo shared 48 goals with Hunt scoring 37 of them. There followed another title triumph in 1965/66 featuring 29 for Hunt and ten for St John.

The summer of 1966 was the pinnacle of Hunt's career, although his contribution to England's World Cup success is occasionally overlooked. He played in five games at the finals tournament on home soil, scoring three goals. Arguably he would have been more popular nationally had he not taken the place of the late Jimmy Greaves, undoubtedly a great goalscorer but also the darling of Fleet Street.

England captain Bobby Moore said: "Roger Hunt is a player's player. He is possibly appreciated more by those who play with him and against him than by those who watch him."

The Kop would beg to differ with the legendary Three Lions skipper. After the World Cup they 'knighted' their hero with the





concerned about setting records, but I admit it was nice to have a few when they came along."

A LATE EQUALISER IN HIS MERSEYSIDE DERBY DEBUT

"There was a full house of 73,000 to see it, and the match certainly lived up to expectations. With only a minute or so left we looked like sure losers. Fortunately I got a chance after the defence had failed to cope with a high ball and I cracked it in from a few yards range to give us a draw. This was one of the most memorable goals of my career, for an equaliser at such a stage of a game means a tremendous amount to a player on Merseyside. Lots of clubs have derby matches, like United-City in Manchester and Spurs-Arsenal in London, but the atmosphere of a Liverpool-Everton clash is something that has to be experienced to be believed."

WINNING THE TITLE IN 1964 AFTER BEATING ARSENAL 5-0 AT ANFIELD

"We were on top of the world as we did a lap of honour at the end. I was so full of joy that I could have played another 90 minutes. It had been a great feeling when we topped the Second Division, but now – only two years later, remember – we were champions of the First. No wonder that champagne tasted so good!"

WINNING THE FA CUP

"I wanted Wembley. I wanted to climb those steps to the Royal Box and pick up a winner's medal. I have been in a championship-winning side and it was a great feeling, but that was past. I'd had the experience and I would not have missed it. I wanted another like it. But I wanted Wembley more. That's the place every player dreams about. The final has such a tradition, such a place in soccer history, that it was always the no1 ambition for me. On 1 May 1965 I achieved it...and that's still the biggest thrill of my soccer life. Yes, even greater than winning the World Cup."

HIS FA CUP FINAL WINNER

"The ball came over about waist-high and for a second I was undecided whether to lift a foot and try to play it down, risking the chance of putting it over the top. Instead I ducked into it and nodded it over the line from a few yards out for the most valuable goal I have ever scored."





THE 1965 HOMECOMING

"We expected a pretty wild welcome on our return to Liverpool, but we were not prepared for what really happened. I have never seen such a crowd. Lime Street was packed solid, and it was the same all the way to the Town Hall for the civic reception."

BEATING INTER MILAN AT ANFIELD IN THE 1965 EUROPEAN CUP SEMI-FINAL

"We absolutely pulverised them that night and I think we were dreadfully unlucky not to gain a bigger lead than 3-1. I picked this game to score one of my finest goals, off a pass from Ian Callaghan. I volleyed it first-time past [goalkeeper] Sarti and the Kop went wild."

WINNING THE TITLE IN 1965/66

"We took the championship again and in doing so the lads helped me set a record which I think must be unique. During the season I scored in 19 league games, getting a total of 30 goals, and we won every one of the 19. I had found previously that if I managed to score we very rarely finished as losers, but the run during this particular season was remarkable."

LIVERPOOL'S TEAM SPIRIT

"The lads like to enjoy themselves as much as anybody. We have a lot of laughs in training, on our travels, anywhere we are together. We have a drink or two – we have even advertised beer on TV – and quite a lot of us are not strangers to cigarettes. But we know when to stop. We have found that there is more satisfaction in a good win than there is in a pint or cigarette packet."

PARADING THE JULES RIMET TROPHY AT GOODISON PARK WITH EVERTON'S RAY WILSON

"We played four derbies that season [1966/67], starting with the Charity Shield game. [Fellow England player] Ray Wilson and I came out first, holding the World Cup, followed by Ron Yeats with the League trophy and Brian Labone with the FA Cup, to do a lap of honour. That was one of the proudest moments of my life and the reception we were given made me feel all over again that the hours of slogging effort had been worthwhile. Then I went on to get the only goal with a shot from outside the box, to make the day even happier."

chant "Sir Roger Hunt, Sir Roger Hunt, Ee-aye-addio Sir Roger Hunt!"

The latter half of the 1960s was not quite as successful but Hunt continued to deliver in front of goal: 19 in season 1966/67; 30 in 1967/68; and 17 in 1968/69 as the Reds finished runners-up behind old foes Leeds United.

He added another seven goals in the opening months of 1969/70 before, aged 31 and less regularly in the side, he moved to Bolton Wanderers.

Hunt and St John remained friends long after their Liverpool careers ended. In 2017 the latter was honoured at the O2 North West Media Awards in Manchester to mark 38 years in the broadcast industry. It was Hunt who presented the award but Ian insisted: "This man should be getting all the accolades going for what he did, not only for Liverpool but his country.

"To be a member of the only England team that's won the World Cup, and then there's the goals he scored for Liverpool, it's absolutely incredible. He's been sensational."

In turn Roger had always been hugely appreciative of his Scottish partner in attack. In his 1969 autobiography he explained: "Not surprisingly Ian was immediately popular with our fans and he has remained so. I have played alongside him for hundreds of hours, in all sorts of conditions and he is one of the finest forwards in the game. At first he was mainly a striker, but as our tactics changed he has become a link-man – and he can do both wonderfully well."

Shankly knew exactly what he had in his fearless and feisty frontrunners and he also got the best out of them. "I don't like to distinguish between the players I had – there were so many," he said. "Ian St John and Ronnie Yeats were the foundations of Liverpool – never mind anyone else!

"But then there was Roger Hunt, who drew admiration from me the moment I saw him."



A WORD FROM THE REF

The manner in which Liverpool FC would discover their future ace goal-getter suggests it was meant to be. After the war Harry Mooney had grown up near Anfield and used to date the sister of Liverpool centre-half Tom Bush, who went on to become the club's chief scout. Then Harry moved to the mid-Cheshire area and became a referee, and when Tom bumped into him taking charge of a practice game at Melwood, he asked if he'd let him know of any promising young players he encountered.

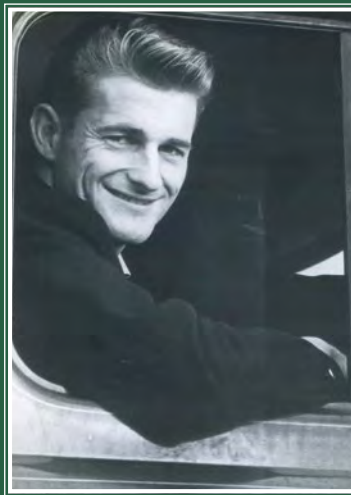
Speaking to the official LFC magazine back in 2009 (he passed away two years later, aged 91), Harry took up the story... "I was refereeing Stockton Heath in a match against [chemical works team] ICI. Upfront they had this big lad, who was very strong, and he broke through the defence and scored two similar goals before half-time. I thought he looked like a very good player. He was unselfish and had plenty of speed.

"I went into the dressing-room at half-time and said, 'What's your name, son?' He said, 'Roger Hunt.' I asked him how come no one had picked him up and he told me his dad was a haulage contractor and that he regularly drove a wagon for him.

"I said, 'Do you drive on a Saturday?' And he said that he did sometimes. I told him I thought he was a good player and asked whether he would like to join Liverpool. 'Oh, I'm a Liverpoolian,' he said. 'That's my team!'

"I said I'd see what I could do for him. I rang up Tom Bush and he asked me where they were playing the following week. I told him it was at Lostock Gralam [a village in Cheshire] and he said, 'I'll send Bill Jones'.

"Bill was also on the scouting staff at the club, having been a fine centre-half for Liverpool and England.



"He came down and asked me what this lad was like. I said, 'You'll see'. Sure enough, he played centre-forward and after a while he banged one in. 'Goodness me', said Bill. 'You've found one there'. I told him I knew I had!

"By half-time he'd seen enough. He went into the dressing-rooms and found Roger. He called him to one side and said, 'How would you like to join Liverpool?' Roger said, 'That would be my heart's desire but I've never been approached'. He said, 'Well, you've been approached now – I'm Bill Jones on behalf of the club'."

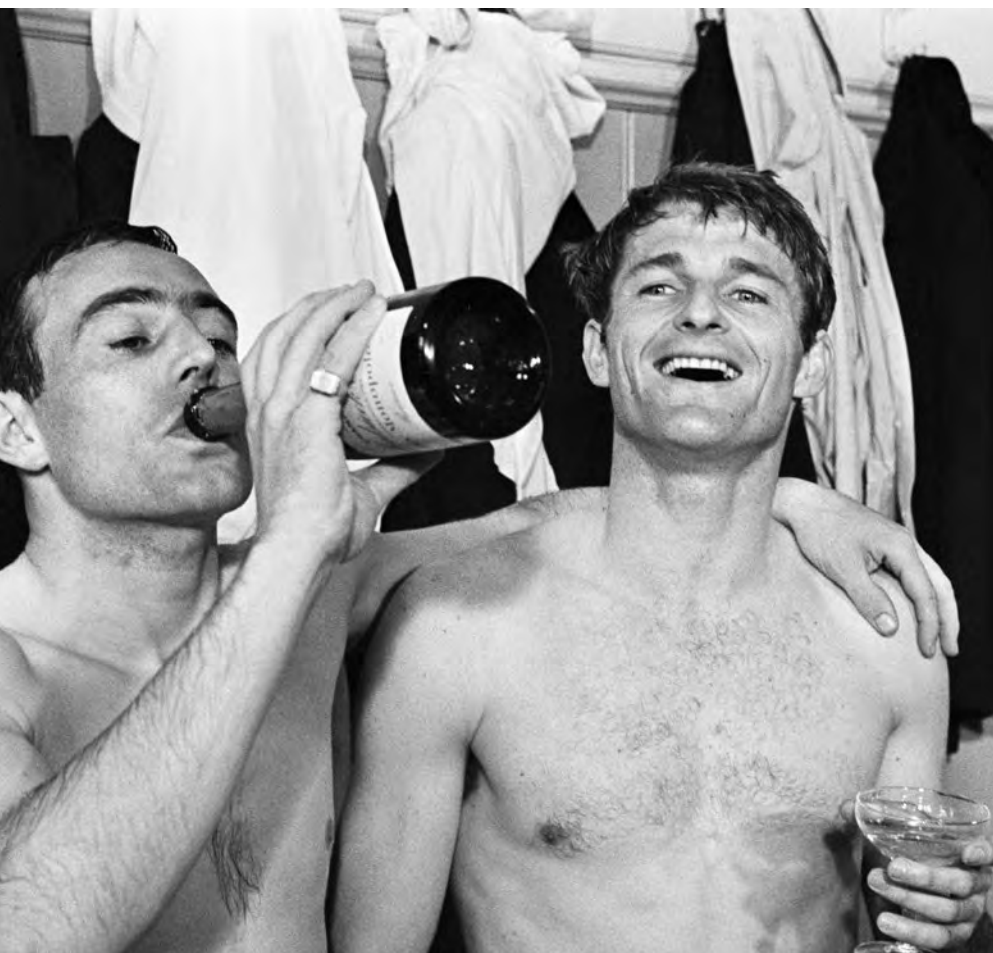
Liverpool made sure that Stockton Heath didn't suffer. The club received £500 which was a healthy sum in those days (around £10,000 today).

Harry adds: "At the time Stockton Heath Football Club had a small hut for the teams to change in, little room for the referee and linesmen to change in and no social club at all. That's all they had. So with the money they got, they built a new clubhouse with a games room, put

up new changing-rooms and had Roger's photograph over the bar. He was president of the club."

It proved to be a sensational signing. Over the next eleven years, Hunt scored 285 goals in 492 matches for Liverpool, overtaking Gordon Hodgson's club record before Ian Rush's heroics in the 1980s and 90s.

"It turned out alright!" said Harry. "What would you pay for someone like that nowadays? I always remember that after the 1966 World Cup finals Alf Ramsey said that England wouldn't have won it without Roger Hunt, because against Germany in the final it was decisive that Roger broke the defence up to make room for Geoff Hurst and Martin Peters to score the goals."



BEATING GORDON HODGSON'S CLUB RECORD OF 233 LEAGUE GOALS

"I only needed eight goals to do it when 1968/69 began, but for some reason the goals simply did not materialise. As time went on and the record stayed out of reach, I began to fret about it. The topic took up such a lot of newspaper space that I simply couldn't get it out of my head. I had to wait until 18 January before I finally managed goal no234. Strange as it sounds, I was sorry in a way that it happened when it did, for it was on the Chelsea ground at Stamford Bridge, not in front of the Kop. I dearly wanted to manage it on my own ground, in front of the fans who had given me such tremendous encouragement. It was a great moment, but I'm still a bit sorry that it did not happen at Anfield."

LIVERPOOL'S FANATICAL SUPPORTERS

"I like a quiet life. I'm not one for the bright lights or city life. That is one reason why I live in Culcheth which is a little town of about 10,000 people twenty miles outside of Liverpool. By living in the country I can get away from it all. Some fans manage to find my phone number and ring up for a chat or ask for tickets, and a couple even got me out of bed at 2.30 one morning having come all the way from the city to ask why the team wasn't doing well. I had quite a shock to wake up and find them standing in the front garden, expecting their questions to be answered!"

HIS REPUTATION

"I always tried to play soccer honestly. I am proud of my reputation as a clean player, one who gets on with the game instead of rowing with referees and opponents."

HIS WONDERFUL CAREER

"I don't think I have done too badly. With no false modesty I can point to a pretty good record. While with Liverpool I have won one Second Division Championship, two First Division Championship medals and an FA Cup medal, as well as helping the club to the semi-final of the European Cup and the final of the Cup Winners' Cup. I have played nearly 500 games for the Reds and scored more goals than anyone in history. I have made more international appearances than any other player, and in my 34 matches for England I only finished on the losing side twice. And, of course, I helped my country win the World Cup."

MO'S HOT 100 (AND ONE)

Mohamed Salah is now the fastest Liverpool player to reach 100 league goals for the Reds, doing so in 151 games – one quicker than the late great Sir Roger Hunt – and here's how

Words: [William Hughes](#)



1 WATFORD (A) SATURDAY 12 AUGUST 2017

Salah scores a debut goal to put Liverpool 3-2 up in a compelling contest at Vicarage Road. Roberto Firmino helps set Salah on his record-breaking way as he produces an exquisite first touch to take down Dejan Lovren's lofted pass and flick the ball goalwards. The Brazilian's effort is just drifting wide but Salah rescues the situation, nudging the ball over the line. The Egyptian King is up-and-running.

2 ARSENAL (H) SUNDAY 27 AUGUST 2017

A rampant Reds put Arsenal to the sword with a devastating display of attacking football. Salah scores his first league goal at Anfield in exactly the same minute as he did his first away league goal: 57. Following an Arsenal corner, Liverpool clear but Hector Bellerin's attempt to control the ball midway inside his own half is poor. Salah nips in to pinch possession and then flies 70 yards upfield. Firmino gives rapid support but Mo opts to go it alone, calmly sliding the ball past Petr Cech at the Kop end.

3 BURNLEY (H) SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2017

Just three minutes after Scott Arfield breaches the Reds' defence with the opening goal for Burnley, our man has the Reds back on terms. Emre Can picks the ball up just inside his own half before delivering a measured ball over the top. Salah reads the delivery perfectly as he makes a clever run from right to left and as Clarets defenders Stephen Ward and Ben Mee back off, he controls and takes a touch before steering a fine low finish beyond Burnley keeper Nick Pope.

4 LEICESTER CITY (A) SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2017

Mo puts the Reds in front after a quarter-of-an-hour at the King Power Stadium with a clever header. Philippe Coutinho picks the ball up on the left edge of the penalty area before picking out Salah's run to the back-post with trademark accuracy. Salah reads the flight to perfection, getting in behind Leicester left-back Ben Chilwell before squeezing his effort past Foxes keeper Kasper Schmeichel.

5 TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (A) SUNDAY 22 OCTOBER 2017

On a day to forget for the Reds at Wembley, Mo offers a glimmer of hope when he halves the arrears midway through the first half. Trailing to early goals from Harry Kane and Heung-min Son, Salah's awareness sees him latch on to a superb pass from Jordan Henderson. The skipper's defence-splitting ball from just inside his own half dissects Spurs defenders Jan Vertonghen and Serge Aurier and the Reds no11 hits a slightly-scuffed first-time finish across keeper Hugo Lloris with his right foot.

**6 WEST HAM UNITED (A) SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2017**

Salah strikes twice in a 4-1 win at the London Stadium and his first comes from a classic counter-attack which started with a Hammers corner. After the flag-kick is headed clear, Salah pokes the ball to Sadio Mane inside the Liverpool half and the duo sprint forward with visiting defenders trailing in their wake. The Senegalese attacker carries the ball to the edge of the area before playing in Salah who takes a touch before tapping the ball beyond keeper Joe Hart. The ball was in the net 13 seconds after Liverpool won possession.

7 WEST HAM UNITED (A) SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2017

Once again Mane is the provider as Mo makes the game safe with the Reds' fourth with 15 minutes remaining. Mane races forward and attacks the home defence, even having time to stumble and regain his footing before lifting a lovely diagonal ball from the right into the path of Salah who had drifted into the penalty area. The Egyptian takes a superb first touch to control the ball in an instant before hitting a crisp angled drive across Hart to the delight of the travelling Kop.

8 SOUTHAMPTON (H) SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2017

The pick of Salah's first 10 Premier League goals put the Reds a goal to the good against the Saints at Anfield. The move starts with a corner taken by the man himself. It is cleared but Roberto Firmino's counter-pressing sees him dispossess midfielder Dusan Tadic. Ragnar Klavan and Gini Wijnaldum then combine to feed Salah on the right edge of the area. After weighing up the possibilities, he takes one touch to take the ball out of his feet before curling a beauty beyond keeper Fraser Forster.

9 SOUTHAMPTON (H) SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2017

Another lovely strike to double the Reds' advantage. Philippe Coutinho collects the ball midway through the Saints half and, after spotting a fine diagonal run from Salah, flicks a fine pass into his path with the outside of his foot. The attacker had pointed to where he wanted the ball and when Coutinho delivers, Salah drifts in behind Southampton centre-back Wesley Hoedt before lifting a first-time finish past the advancing Forster at the Anfield Road end.

10 CHELSEA (H) SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2017

Salah is involved earlier in the move that opens the scoring against his previous Premier League club, feeding Philippe Coutinho. The Brazilian attacks the Chelsea box with purpose and attempts to play Salah back in but midfielder Tiemoue Bakayoko reaches the ball first. It runs to Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain who plays a clever ball into the path of Salah who has continued his run into the box. He takes a touch after drifting between Blues defenders Cesar Azpilicueta and Gary Cahill before slotting his shot past Thibaut Courtois for Premier League goal number 10 in his 13th appearance.



11 STOKE CITY (A) WEDNESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2017

With Jürgen Klopp rotating his squad at the start of a demanding programme, Salah starts the game at Stoke on the bench. But those clichés about whether a top player can do it on a wet Wednesday in the Potteries are put to bed in Mo's 23-minute cameo. In that time he has 14 touches, seven passes, two shots and two goals. His opener gives the Reds breathing space by establishing a two-goal lead. Sadio Mané dances around midfielder Darren Fletcher to reach the byline and floats a cross to the far-post which is met by a sweet, sweet volley from the perfectly-placed Salah.

12 STOKE CITY (A) WEDNESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2017

A lovely passing sequence is the prelude to Emre Can looking to exploit Salah's pace with a through-ball from inside his own half. Mo makes hay after Stoke defender Erik Pieters hesitates and advances into the area before calmly stroking his shot beyond keeper Lee Grant. A dozen Premier League goals in 14 games for LFC and seven in November alone.

13 EVERTON (H) SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER 2017

Liverpool dominate Everton at Anfield and go ten unbeaten although a late penalty by Wayne Rooney undoes some of the fine work of Klopp's side, who look a class apart for almost the entire 90 minutes. Nobody impresses more than Salah who scores arguably his finest Liverpool goal to date, a curling, dipping effort that leaves keeper Jordan Pickford with no chance. He glides past two Everton defenders in the build-up to the goal then shows perfect poise to lift his effort into the far corner.

14 BOURNEMOUTH (A) SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 2017

Christmas is only just on the horizon yet Salah hits the 20-goal mark for the season – a figure that both he, Jürgen Klopp and Liverpool's fans would have been delighted with by the end of May, let alone the middle of December. He joins Reds goalscoring greats Roger Hunt and Ian Rush as the only Liverpool players to have ever reached 20 goals before Christmas, making it 3-0 as he cuts inside, runs straight at Bournemouth's defence and curls a left-foot shot past Asmir Begovic and inside the far-post.

15 ARSENAL (A) FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER 2017

This was Premier League football at its very best, a pulsating

match that could have gone either way and a point apiece after a 3-3 draw was probably the fairest result all round, not that Salah and co were happy with it. After Philippe Coutinho's clever header gives Liverpool the lead, Salah doubles the advantage as he races on to a Roberto Firmino pass and his deflected effort beats Petr Cech.

16 LEICESTER CITY (H) SATURDAY 30 DECEMBER 2017

After Jamie Vardy momentarily silences Anfield with a quickfire opener for the visitors, Salah again underlines why he was worth every penny of the record £36m Liverpool paid Roma for him the previous summer. After 52 minutes, Sadio Mané produces an outrageous back-heel that gives Salah half-a-chance on goal. He wriggles free of the Leicester defence, holds his nerve and slots past keeper Kasper Schmeichel.

17 LEICESTER CITY (H) SATURDAY 30 DECEMBER 2017

Leicester City must have returned to the East Midlands cursing Liverpool's wonderful Egyptian talent as Salah seals the three points to end 2017 on a high note. With 14 minutes remaining, defender Harry Maguire gets too close to Salah and is turned before Schmeichel is again beaten calmly and convincingly. His tally of 23 goals by the year end also matches Roger Hunt's record from the 1961/62 season.

18 MANCHESTER CITY (H) SUNDAY 14 JANUARY 2017

It was always going to take a special game to finally see Pep Guardiola's side defeated and Liverpool produce exactly what is required. Klopp's side go 18 matches unbeaten themselves as they win 4-3 and who else but Salah scores the final Reds goal, a strike that proves crucial once the 90 minutes are up. Pouncing on a poor clearance from goalkeeper Ederson, he lifts the ball back over the City keeper from just inside the visitors half to the delight of the Reds in the stadium.

19 HUDDERSFIELD (A) TUESDAY 30 JANUARY 2018

As routine a showing as you are likely to get in the Premier League as top-flight debutants Huddersfield Town feel the full force of the Red machine. Liverpool wrestle control of the match early on and by the time Salah scores his 26th of the campaign – a calmly-finished penalty that sends keeper Jonas Lossl the wrong way – the three points are confirmed.

20 TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (H) SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2018

An engrossing encounter at Anfield sees Liverpool seemingly snatch victory then watch a 95th minute Harry Kane penalty take that win away. Salah takes the game by the scruff of the neck early on to give Liverpool the lead. Tottenham's Eric Dier misjudges a back-pass and that's the only invitation Salah needs to race in on goal and beat Hugo Lloris.

21 TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (H) SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2018

After Loris Karius saves Harry Kane's (first) late penalty, the roof nearly comes off Anfield when Salah makes it 2-1 to the home side. The ball appears to be glued to his feet as he works his way in from a tight angle on the right-hand side of the box. He drifts and jinks his way past two Spurs defenders and while surrounded by a total of five opponents, he then lifts the ball past Lloris from a seemingly impossible angle. Simply stunning.

22 SOUTHAMPTON (A) SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2018

Liverpool pick up a comfortable win on the South Coast and Salah seals the win just before half-time after some sublime build-up play. Joel Matip finds Salah on the edge of the area, he exchanges passes with Roberto Firmino then places the ball beyond the reach of Alex McCarthy. The finish is Salah's 19th left-footed goal of the season, equalling the record set by Robbie Fowler back in 1994/95.

23 WEST HAM (H) SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2018

Liverpool move into second spot in the Premier League table as Klopp's side again go on a scoring rampage. Four different scorers make all the difference against the Hammers and Salah nets for the sixth successive match. He is the second Liverpool player on the scoresheet when Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain finds him with a clever ball inside the area. Salah moves swiftly and hits his shot back across goal and inside the far corner.

24 NEWCASTLE UNITED (H) SATURDAY 3 MARCH 2018

After an entertaining but goalless opening 40 minutes against Rafa Benitez's visitors, Salah finally breaks the deadlock. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, playing with the new-found freedom afforded him by Klopp, charges through on goal but rather than trying his luck, spots Salah in a better position and plays him in. The no11 pulls the trigger and nutmegs Newcastle goalkeeper Martin Dubravka.

25 WATFORD (H) SATURDAY 17 MARCH 2018

On one of the coldest March afternoons on record, Salah has an afternoon that will be remembered forever with a performance

that leaves Watford defeated and dumbfounded. He opens the scoring after just three minutes, leaving Miguel Britos chasing shadows before threading past Orestis Karnezis to make it 1-0. The fun has only just begun.

26 WATFORD (H) SATURDAY 17 MARCH 2018

As Watford look to get back into the contest, Salah makes it 2-0 with a superbly-worked goal that relies heavily on the hard work and fine delivery of Andy Robertson. The Scot delivers a cross in to Salah who is unmarked in the six-yard box and he clips home to leave Watford reeling.

27 WATFORD (H) SATURDAY 17 MARCH 2018

After setting up Roberto Firmino's goal to make it 3-0, Mo then grabs his hat-trick in fine style, securing the matchball with 13 minutes left and somehow managing to slip over while passing the ball into the Kop net.

28 WATFORD (H) SATURDAY 17 MARCH 2018

Just as Watford are desperately hoping for the final whistle to end their Anfield misery, Salah again underlines his ruthlessness by adding his fourth and the Reds' fifth, slamming a shot into the roof of the net from close range with five minutes remaining.

29 CRYSTAL PALACE (A) SATURDAY 21 MARCH 2018

Liverpool's trip to South London for this Selhurst Park clash looked like garnering a solitary point. But if Salah had shown anything in his debut Premier League season it's that he should never be written off. With just six minutes remaining of a scrappy contest, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain finds Andy Robertson who lays off to Salah and he does the rest. There can be few in the world better at keeping their heads in the six-yard box than Salah and he shows his composure again in netting this winner.

30 BOURNEMOUTH (H) SATURDAY 14 APRIL 2018

Although this was a fairly straightforward win for the Reds, there was nothing standard about Salah's goal – nor the landmark it took him to. A wonderfully-flicked header beat Bournemouth keeper Asmir Begovic after 69 minutes and also helped Mo become the first African player to score 30 Premier League goals in a single season. His finish also notched up goal no40 of the campaign, the first time a Liverpool player had managed that feat since Ian Rush in 1986/87.

31 WEST BROM (A) SATURDAY 21 APRIL 2018

After 72 minutes of this contest, Salah's debut season produces another landmark achievement. After Oxlade-Chamberlain's through ball puts him in on goal, he stays calm to chip a shot over West Brom goalkeeper Ben Foster to make it 41 goals for the season. His 31st Premier League ensures he equals Cristiano Ronaldo, Luis Suarez and Alan Shearer's joint-record for most Premier League goals scored in a 38-match season.





32 BRIGHTON (H) SUNDAY 13 MAY 2018

Although it would've taken a mathematical oddity not to qualify for the Champions League, it takes Liverpool until the last game of the season to finally confirm their place and Salah, who else, plays a huge role. He fires home his 32nd goal of the season – a new Premier League record – to calm any lingering nerves inside Anfield. At the end of the match Salah is awarded with the Premier League Golden Boot and applauded by both home and away fans – recognition for remarkable debut season.

33 WEST HAM (H) SUNDAY 12 AUGUST 2018

New season, same old Mo. It takes the ace goal-getter just 20 minutes to open his own and the Reds' account in the opening-weekend clash. He taps home in front of the Kop at the far-post after neat play by Naby Keita and Andy Robertson with the Scottish full-back squaring the ball for the Egyptian to do the rest. The goal is Salah's 20th in 20 Premier League games at Anfield.

34 BRIGHTON (H) SATURDAY 25 AUGUST 2018

The only goal of the game against the Seagulls involves the whole of the front-three. James Milner presses to win the ball high up the pitch and finds Sadio Mane, who in turn picks out Roberto Firmino. The Brazilian stabs a perfect pass into the path of Salah in the inside-right position and he opens up his body before sliding an angled left-footed shot across Brighton keeper Mat Ryan and into the net at the Anfield Road end from just inside the area.

35 SOUTHAMPTON (H)

SATURDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2018

A goal that showcases Mo's predatory instincts. When the Reds are awarded a free-kick 30 yards from goal, full debutant Xherdan Shaqiri's effort crashes off the crossbar but Mo is first on the scene tapping home the rebound to put the Reds three goals to the good on the stroke of half-time – and end what had been described in the media as a 'mini goal drought' of three games!

36 HUDDERSFIELD (A)

SATURDAY 20 OCTOBER 2018

Mo's 50th goal in English football (and 48th for Liverpool) settles this contest in West

Yorkshire. Shaq is again the provider, collecting a pass from Joe Gomez before picking out Salah's dangerous run into the inside-right position. He opts to shoot first time, tucking away an angled right-footed shot across Terriers keeper Jonas Lossl and into the net.

37 CARDIFF CITY (H) SATURDAY 27 OCTOBER 2018

Another example of being in the right place at the right time. After Trent Alexander-Arnold's cross into the area is only half-cleared by the Bluebirds, both Sadio Mane and Gini Wijnaldum see goalbound strikes blocked by last-ditch defending. The rebound from the latter attempt falls into the six-yard box and Salah arrives right on cue to tap Liverpool into a 10th-minute lead.

38 FULHAM (H) SUNDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2018

Fourteen seconds is all it needs from Alisson Becker taking a quick free-kick to Mo putting the Reds into the lead. To rub salt into the wounds for Fulham, they are caught out after striker Aleksandar Mitrovic has what looks like a legitimate headed goal ruled out for offside. While the Cottagers rue their luck, Liverpool launch their counter with the Brazilian keeper picking out Trent Alexander-Arnold, whose first-time pass into space finds Salah's run, leaving him one-on-one with keeper Sergio Rico. He finishes with typical calmness at the Anfield Road end.

39 WATFORD (A) SATURDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2018

A clinical finish from a clinical attack. Having been frustrated by Watford for three-quarters of the game, the Reds make the breakthrough with a lovely move. Andy Robertson picks out Roberto Firmino in space and from there the front-three do their work. Firmino slides in Sadio Mane down the left and his first-time cross is volleyed home by Salah with impeccable timing.

40 BOURNEMOUTH (A)

SATURDAY 8 DECEMBER 2018

Liverpool make the breakthrough in Dorset after 26 minutes and once again Mo is the man. Roberto Firmino plays a one-two with the Egyptian before trying a long-range strike. It proves too hot for keeper Asmir Begovic to hold and Salah, who had carried on his run into the area, is the first to pounce on the loose ball to stroke Liverpool into the lead.



41 BOURNEMOUTH (A) SATURDAY 8 DECEMBER 2018

Mo doubles the Reds' advantage at the Vitality Stadium with Firmino again the provider. After winning the ball back, Bobby finds Mo running into space midway into the Bournemouth half. He runs at retreating centre-back Nathan Ake and carries the ball into the area. Although he is clipped by central defender Steve Cook, he keeps his balance, shifts the ball to his left and places a low left-footed shot beyond Begovic.

42 BOURNEMOUTH (A) SATURDAY 8 DECEMBER 2018

A stunning solo effort completes his first hat-trick of 2018/19. A superb through-ball by Adam Lallana sets Salah off in a foot race against Steve Cook and there is only one winner. He then takes the ball around Begovic, not once but twice, before showing incredible composure to pick his moment to find the net with the outside of his left foot.

43 WOLVES (A) FRIDAY 21 DECEMBER 2018

A top-class finish at Molineux breaks the deadlock and puts the Reds on their way to being top of the tree at Christmas. Fabinho and Sadio Mane combine down the right and the Brazilian's cut-back picks out Salah's run across the Wolves defence. He produces an impudent left-footed flick to divert the ball past goalkeeper Rui Patricio. The Egyptian then turns provider by floating in a perfect cross for Virgil van Dijk to add a second goal after the break and seal an excellent away win for the Reds.

44 NEWCASTLE UNITED (H) WEDNESDAY 26 DECEMBER 2018

Mo steps up to score from the spot early in the second half after he had been fouled by Newcastle defender Paul Dummett. With James Milner missing through injury, the no11 assumes the spot-kick duties and shows his composure to place his shot low to keeper Martin Dubravka's right and put his team on course for their seventh victory of the month. Salah's goal also takes his goal involvement to 35 in 28 home Premier League games for Liverpool (25 goals, 10 assists).

45 ARSENAL (H) SATURDAY 29 DECEMBER 2018

Another penalty at the Anfield Road end and another occasion where he dusts himself down to score from 12 yards, having been fouled by an opposing defender. This time it is Gunners centre-back Sokratis who commits the offence and Mo opts for power as he strikes his shot down the middle and past keeper Bernd Leno. The goal, which comes on the stroke of half-time, puts the Reds 4-1 up at the interval. Having earlier teed up Sadio Mane for Liverpool's third, it is the 10th time since the start of the 2017/18 season that Salah had both scored and assisted in the same Premier League game.

46 BRIGHTON (A) SATURDAY 12 JANUARY 2019

Once again he keeps his nerve from the spot as he nets his third consecutive goal from 12 yards. This time it settles a tight affair at the Amex Stadium. Once again, Salah had been the man fouled in the area, brought down by Brighton's German midfielder Pascal Gross. This time Mo goes to the goalkeeper's left and although David Button guesses the right way, the strike carries too much power and escapes his clutches.

47 CRYSTAL PALACE (H) SATURDAY 19 JANUARY 2019

Mo produces a brilliant piece of improvisation to draw the Reds level early in the second period. When Virgil van Dijk's long-range shot cannons up into the air off a defender, Salah is first to react and despite the ball coming down at an awkward angle, he manages to adjust his body to stick out his left leg and nudge the ball beyond the advancing Eagles keeper Julian Speroni and into the Kop end net.

48 CRYSTAL PALACE (H) SATURDAY 19 JANUARY 2019

Fabinho's brilliant cross-field pass picks out James Milner on the right. His cross from near the touchline should have been dealt with by Palace keeper Speroni but he contrives to parry the ball over his head. Salah gets there first to ensure the ball crosses the line to put the Reds 3-2 up in a game they would eventually edge 4-3.

49 BOURNEMOUTH (H) SATURDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2019

Salah finishes off a glorious team-move to score his 20th goal of the season early in the second half in a 3-0 win. Sadio Mane receives James Milner's throw-in and feeds Naby Keita, who plays a pinpoint through-ball for Roberto Firmino. Rather than shoot, the no9 unselfishly opts to back-heel the ball into the path of Salah who slots beyond keeper Artur Boruc and into the far corner.

50 SOUTHAMPTON (A) FRIDAY 6 APRIL 2019

Mo enters the record books as the fastest player in the club's history to reach a half-century of league goals. The score is tied at 1-1 with ten minutes left and the Reds need a victory to keep up the pressure on title rivals Manchester City. But the longest drought of Salah's LFC career is ended in sensational fashion as he runs half the length of St Mary's – following a Southampton corner – to plant a left-footer into the bottom corner for his 50th league goal in 69 games.

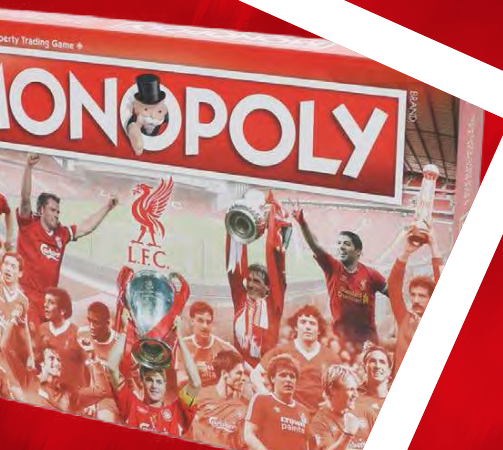
51 CHELSEA (H) SUNDAY 14 APRIL 2019

Anfield is still buzzing from Sadio Mane's opener, a header from Jordan Henderson's clever cross, when Mo produces a wonder-goal in front of the Kop. He cuts in from the right before unleashing a diagonal drive that flies past Chelsea keeper Kepa Arrizabalaga and into the top corner of the Kop end net. For Salah, who memorably adopts a yoga pose in celebration, it is a first goal from outside the box in the Premier League since scoring against Manchester City in January 2018.





Liverpoolfc.com/competitions



WALK ON

52 HUDDERSFIELD (H) FRIDAY 26 APRIL 2019

Mo scores twice in a 5-0 defeat of the Terriers and, in doing so, moves to 69 goals and thus overtakes Roger Hunt and Sam Raybould for the most in his first 100 games for Liverpool. The first arrives on the stroke of half-time. Trent Alexander-Arnold floats a ball into the channel between two defenders for Salah to sprint through on goal. Huddersfield goalkeeper Jonas Lossl charges out and Salah lobs him to score.

53 HUDDERSFIELD (H) FRIDAY 26 APRIL 2019

His second goal of the game arrives with seven minutes remaining. Salah seals the rout from Andy Robertson's low centre, the full-back having been released behind the visiting defence by substitute Xherdan Shaqiri. Salah does the rest to seal a five-star display.

54 NEWCASTLE UNITED (A) SATURDAY 4 MAY 2019

Ahead of their Champions league semi-final second leg against Barcelona at Anfield, the Reds keep their Premier League ambitions alive with a 3-2 away win. Trent Alexander-Arnold's cross finds Mo alone in front of Martin Dubravka's goal to restore Liverpool's lead with a deft volley. It's his 22nd league goal of the season.

55 NORWICH CITY (H) FRIDAY 9 AUGUST 2019

Mo needs just 19 minutes to start his scoring spell for the 2019/20 campaign with the second goal of the opening night against Norwich City. Joe Gomez plays a fine pass to Trent Alexander-Arnold, who in turn finds Salah. Soon he has only had keeper Tim Krul to beat thanks to a series of ricochets off Norwich defenders plus a measured touch from Roberto Firmino.

56 ARSENAL (H) SATURDAY 24 AUGUST 2019

A second-half brace seals a 3-1 win over the Gunners. His first comes from the spot after he had been tugged back by David Luiz. Referee Anthony Taylor has an easy decision to make, enabling Salah to calmly convert into the top corner past keeper Bernd Leno.

57 ARSENAL (H) SATURDAY 24 AUGUST 2019

Mo adds a brilliant second which is framed around his breathtaking pace. After spinning away from Luiz on halfway, he races goalwards with such speed that the retreating Luiz appears to wave his hands in surrender. Mo opens up his body before beating Leno again with a low finish.

58 NEWCASTLE UNITED (H) SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2019

The Reds come from behind to complete a 3-1 victory over Steve Bruce's side with Mo rounding off the scoring. He plays a one-two with Roberto Firmino, takes the return away from two defenders and finds the far corner. A special word for the assist too. Firmino rolls the first touch under his right foot before flicking the ball into Salah's run with his left instep. Exquisite pass, exquisite finish.

**59 TOTTENHAM (H) SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER 2019**

Salah holds his nerve from the spot as the Reds come from behind to see off Spurs in an entertaining tussle. The score is level at 1-1 with 15 minutes remaining when Liverpool are awarded a pen when full-back Serge Aurier catches Sadio Mane in attempting to clear. Mo beats Paulo Gazzaniga and gives Liverpool an important three points in the race for the title.

60 MANCHESTER CITY (H) SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2019

Mo doubles Liverpool's advantage 13 minutes into a key clash with City. Fabinho had already fired the Reds into an early lead before Trent Alexander-Arnold switches the play from right to left with a 60-yard pass to Andy Robertson, whose cross invites Salah to rush in on left-back Angelino's blindside. His superb header gives deputy goalkeeper Claudio Bravo no chance.

61 BOURNEMOUTH (A) SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER 2019

Mo puts the seal on an impressive 3-0 away win as Liverpool extend their unbeaten league record to 33 games. Defender Jack Simpson gives the ball away to Naby Keita, whose weighted pass allows Salah to race in behind Chris Mepham before squeezing the ball into the far corner.

62 WATFORD (H) SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER 2019

Mo grabs another brace as Liverpool withhold Watford's spirited showing to secure an important win ahead of contesting the FIFA Club World Championship in Qatar. His opener comes after a classic counter-attack catches Watford cold during a sustained spell of pressure for the visitors. Salah gets on the wrong side of the defence before planting a right-footed effort past goalkeeper Ben Foster into the top corner.

63 WATFORD (H)**SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER 2019**

Salah makes the game safe late on when he flicks home substitute Divock Origi's scuffed effort with a smart back-heel. VAR once more are called upon to make their routine checks but conclude that all is well. Salah's double takes him to 84 goals in 126 appearances in all competitions for Liverpool – two more than Luis Suarez (82) netted in 133 games for the Reds. It also means he had scored eight Premier League goals against Watford; more than he had netted against any other team in the big five European leagues.





64 SHEFFIELD UNITED (H) THURSDAY 2 JANUARY 2020

Mo needs just four minutes to open LFC's account for 2020 as they return to Anfield as the newly-crowned world club champions. Defender George Baldock's slip allows Andy Robertson to set him up for a simple close-range finish. Salah has now scored against 22 of the 25 different Premier League opponents he's faced as a Liverpool player. His next goal would make it 23...

65 MANCHESTER UNITED (H) SUNDAY 19 JANUARY 2020

Mo seals a memorable victory deep into injury-time when he is picked out by a clever clearance downfield by goalkeeper Alisson Becker. He races clear, holds off Daniel James and slots past David De Gea. Alisson sprints the length of the field to celebrate with Salah in front of the Kop.

66 WEST HAM UNITED (A) WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY 2020

A penalty at the London Stadium puts the Reds on course for a victory that takes them 19 points clear at the top of the Premier League. Centre-back Issa Diop's foul on Divock Origi allows Salah to put the visitors ahead with their first shot on target.

67 SOUTHAMPTON (H) SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2020

The Reds had been held during a goalless first half against Ralph Hasenhuttl's Saints before blowing them away after the break. Goals from Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Jordan Henderson put them in command before Mo strikes twice in front of the Kop late on. His first sees him prod the ball past keeper Alex McCarthy for his 17th goal of the season in all competitions.

68 SOUTHAMPTON (H) SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2020

Salah completes a 4-0 victory in the closing stages when he taps home after unselfish play from Roberto Firmino who provides a hat-trick of scoring assists in the game. Mo's brace means he's scored more home goals in the 2019/20 season's Premier League (12) than any other player.

69 WEST HAM UNITED (H) MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2020

The Reds trail 2-1 with a quarter of this game to go, but Mo's customary goal against the Hammers goal brings them level and Liverpool go on to win 3-2 to equal the English record of 18 successive victories. This time he is given a helping hand by visiting keeper Lukasz Fabianski, who inexplicably allows his 68th-minute shot to squirm through his legs.

70 BOURNEMOUTH (H) SATURDAY 7 MARCH 2020

The Reds fall behind to an early Callum Wilson effort but Salah restores parity with a low finish, marking his 100th game for the Reds with his 70th goal – seven more than any other player in their first 100 for the club (Fernando Torres was next-best with 63). It's LFC's last pre-COVID Premier League game in front of a full house.

71 CRYSTAL PALACE (H) WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE 2020

Football is being played behind-closed-doors when Mo scores again. His strike puts Liverpool 2-0 up on the stroke of half-time and within touching distance of claiming the club's first league title for 30 years. Fabinho picks out his run from the right and Mo touches to control before lofting the ball over keeper Wayne Hennessey.

72 BRIGHTON (A) WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 2020

Mo takes his tally to three goals in four Liverpool appearances since the Premier League's restart as the newly-crowned champions continue their pursuit of a Premier League points record. The opening goal comes after six minutes when Naby Keita robs midfielder Davy Propper in a dangerous position to set up Salah who makes no mistake.

73 BRIGHTON (A) WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 2020

A rare Mo headed goal as he flicks home an Andy Robertson corner to clinch a 3-1 victory. At the final whistle the TV cameras capture Mo berating himself over a chance he had missed to complete a hat-trick in the closing stages. He still ends the title-winning campaign with 19 Premier League goals.



74 LEEDS UNITED (H) SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2020

Mo becomes the first player to score on the opening day of four consecutive league seasons and the first Liverpool player to score a hat-trick in the opening game of a league season since John Aldridge against Charlton in 1988/89. He makes it a tough start for the previous season's Championship winners when he drills home a penalty in the fourth minute.

75 LEEDS UNITED (H) SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2020

Salah's second goal arrives in the 33rd minute and is a ferociously-struck effort that flashes past goalkeeper Illan Meslier. One of the quirks of the games being played behind-closed-doors is that you could clearly hear the ripple as the ball makes contact with the back of the net.

76 LEEDS UNITED (H) SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2020

Leeds fight back to level the match at 3-3 but Mo has the last word when he completes his treble with a second spot-kick of the game. Rodrigo makes an ill-advised challenge on Fabinho and Salah keeps his nerve to power his shot past Meslier and complete a hard-fought victory for the Reds.

77 ASTON VILLA (A) SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 2020

Liverpool lose 7-2 at Villa Park in one of the shock results of the season. They trail 2-0 early on but seem to have clawed their way back into the contest when Mo halves the arrears with a sumptuous strike just after the half-hour mark. Diogo Jota surges in from the left and when Naby Keita is crowded out, the ball ricochets out to Salah and his finish is lethal.

78 ASTON VILLA (A) SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 2020

The Reds are 5-1 down when Mo strikes again on the hour-mark. Roberto Firmino picks him out at the near-post and, with Villa defender Tyrone Mings backing away, he produces an excellent finish to provide one of the few highlights in a game Kopites would rather forget.

79 EVERTON (A) SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER 2020

This game is marred by injuries to Virgil van Dijk and Thiago Alcantara but Mo's goal helps the Reds earn a draw. His 100th goal for the club puts the Reds 2-1 up with 20 minutes remaining – a rocket which flies past Blues keeper Jordan Pickford.

80 WEST HAM (H) SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER 2020

The Reds edge out the Hammers with Mo scoring from the spot. Pablo Fornals had given the visitors an eleventh-minute lead but the Reds reply just before the break when Mo is fouled by defender Arthur Masuaku and fires past keeper Lukasz Fabianski from 12 yards. It paves the way for Liverpool to grab a late winner through Diogo Jota.

**81 MANCHESTER CITY (A) SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2020**

It ends all-square following a 1-1 draw at the Etihad. Mo, lining up in a bold front-four selection alongside Sadio Mane, Roberto Firmino and Diogo Jota, puts the Reds in front from the spot after Kyle Walker brings down Mane.

82 WOLVES (H) SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER 2020

Liverpool welcome fans back to Anfield for the first time in nine months with an emphatic victory, and the small number of supporters see Mo scoring in the flesh again. Wolves skipper Conor Coady misjudges a long ball from Jordan Henderson and Salah lashes his shot beyond keeper Rui Patricio. He later provides an assist too, teeing up Joel Matip for the third goal of the game.

83 FULHAM (A) SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2020

The Reds come under sustained pressure at Craven Cottage but rescue a late point thanks to another Mo penalty. He fires low under home goalkeeper Alphonse Areola after Aboubakar Kamara had leapt in the wall and blocked a Georginio Wijnaldum free-kick with his arm.

84 TOTTENHAM (H) WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2020

Liverpool pay tribute to Gerard Houllier before this game and the Frenchman loved seeing Mo in action. The winger puts the Reds ahead against Jose Mourinho's side when his shot takes a big deflection off Eric Dier and loops over goalkeeper Hugo Lloris.

85 CRYSTAL PALACE (A) SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER 2020

The Reds put seven past Palace to make sure they top the Premier League standings at Christmas. Mo starts on the bench but comes on with just over half-an-hour remaining and strikes twice in the final ten minutes with the Reds' sixth and seventh goals of the game. His first comes when Trent Alexander-Arnold's deep corner is headed down by Joel Matip and he heads in from close-range.

86 CRYSTAL PALACE (A) SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER 2020

Mo's second at Selhurst Park is sheer brilliance. Receiving the ball on the right edge of the area, he cuts inside left-back Patrick van Aanholt and curls a shot into the far top corner. Salah also provides the assist for Roberto Firmino to make it 5-0.

87 WEST HAM UNITED (A) SUNDAY 31 JANUARY 2021

After a run of six top-flight games without scoring, Mo strikes twice as the Reds run out 3-1 winners at the London Stadium. He breaks the deadlock in the 57th minute after a scintillating counter-attack which sees him latch onto a pass from Curtis Jones and cap a move which sees the Reds work the ball from their own box to the Hammers net in just 13 seconds.





88 WEST HAM UNITED (A) SUNDAY 31 JANUARY 2021

Mo doubles his side's lead eleven minutes later, instantly controlling Xherdan Shaqiri's long, looping pass before prodding past Lukasz Fabianski. He becomes the first player to score 20-plus goals in all competitions in four consecutive seasons for Liverpool since Ian Rush did so six times running from 1981/82 to 1986/87. His double also means that he's scored nine Premier League goals against West Ham – his best return against a side in the competition.

89 MANCHESTER CITY (H) SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2021

A game to forget for the Reds as City record their first win at Anfield since 2003. The only highlight is Mo's equaliser from the spot, awarded after centre-back Ruben Dias had hauled him down.

90 LEICESTER CITY (A) SATURDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2021

Mo scores but it's in the midst of another losing cause as the Reds continued their difficult run. They look set to cement their top-four aspirations when he opens the scoring after 67 minutes with a clever finish following a piece of brilliance by Roberto Firmino. But Leicester stage an astonishing late comeback to win 3-1.



91 ARSENAL (A) SATURDAY 3 APRIL 2021

A lovely finish to double Liverpool's lead at the Emirates midway through the second half. Trent Alexander-Arnold passes infield from the right. Fabinho loops away down the channel and Mo wriggles free of centre-back Gabriel before moving into the box, drawing keeper Bernd Leno off his line then nutmegging him.

92 ASTON VILLA (H) SATURDAY 10 APRIL 2021

Mo pulls Liverpool level in the 57th minute after they'd fallen behind late in the first half to the visitors from the West Midlands. He heads into an empty net after goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez had parried Andy Robertson's cross. Trent Alexander-Arnold later fires in a stoppage-time winner for a victory which ends a run of six successive home defeats for the champions.

93 NEWCASTLE UNITED (H) SATURDAY 24 APRIL 2021

Mo's early goal appears to have put the Reds on track for a vital three points as they chase a top-four finish. Salah's superb early goal, scored after he spins to control a clearance before smashing his shot home after just two minutes and 59 seconds is, remarkably, Liverpool's opening first-half goal at home in 2021.

94 MANCHESTER UNITED (A) THURSDAY 13 MAY 2021

A vital late goal clinches a 4-2 win at Old Trafford. At 3-2 to Liverpool, the game is into its 90th minute when Nemanja Matic overruns the ball and Curtis Jones hooks it through to Salah. He sprints clear and beats United goalkeeper Dean Henderson to his right.

95 WEST BROM (A) SUNDAY 16 MAY 2021

This game will forever be remembered for Alisson Becker's stoppage-time winner but Mo grabs the other goal in the dramatic 2-1 victory. Sadio Mane dispossesses defender Kyle Bartley and finds Mo, 20 yards out and just right of centre. With little backlift and a world-class instinct, he swipes a low early finish into the far corner.

96 NORWICH CITY (A) SATURDAY 14 AUGUST 2021

Mo scores on the opening day for a record fifth successive season and it's a beauty too! From a corner, the ball is cleared his

way on the edge of the Norwich penalty area. He steadies himself before curling a left-footed effort beyond goalkeeper Tim Krul and inside the far-post to open his account for another campaign.

97 CHELSEA (H) SATURDAY 28 AUGUST 2021

A penalty on the stroke of half-time to bring the Reds all-square. Liverpool trailed to a Kai Havertz header but put themselves on terms when defender Reece James handles on the line and is subsequently sent-off. Mo keeps his nerve to fire past keeper Edouard Mendy.

98 LEEDS UNITED (A) SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2021

A fine finish to open the scoring at Elland Road and put the Reds on course for an eventual 3-0 triumph. Joel Matip brings the ball forward before teeing up Trent Alexander-Arnold on the right and the full-back's early low cross is met by Salah at the near-post, his first-time finish beating keeper Illan Meslier. Taken together with two goals he scored for Chelsea in the 2013/14 season, it takes Mo's Premier League tally to 100. He is the 30th man to join the Premier League's 100-club and the fifth fastest to do so.

99 CRYSTAL PALACE (H) SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2021

A poacher's finish at the back-post to double the Reds' advantage against the Eagles. Kostas Tsimikas' corner is flicked on by Virgil van Dijk as several Liverpool and Palace players converge, and Mo times his run nicely to steal in and volley a first-time shot past keeper Vicente Guaita from inside the six-yard box.

100 BRENTFORD (A)

SATURDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2021

Mo gets his 100th Premier League goal for Liverpool in his 151st appearance for the club – making him the quickest-ever centurion. It comes in a yellow shirt rather than red and after an agonising wait while VAR is called upon to adjudicate on a potential offside, his effort initially having been ruled out by the on-field officials. Subsequent video-checks show that he is onside when team-mate Fabinho plays a fabulous diagonal ball behind the Bees defence and, with a first-time sweep of his left foot, Mo angles the ball beyond keeper David Raya.

101 MANCHESTER CITY (H)

SUNDAY 3 OCTOBER 2021

What a way to start his second LFC century in the Premier League. It's arguably Mo's best goal yet, although there are shades of his February 2018 strike against Spurs at Anfield as he wriggles free of marker after marker to fire home from a tight angle at the Anfield Road end.



EVERY
ONE
LOVES
SADIO



It was TV pundit and former Reds defender Jamie Carragher who said it best about Sadio Mane: not only is he always scoring, he's always working hard too – and he never seems to stop smiling

It was October 2019, against Leicester City at Anfield, when Sadio Mane scored his 50th Premier League goal for Liverpool in his 100th league game.

Less than six months earlier the Senegalese international had shared the Premier League Golden Boot with team-mate Mo Salah and Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang after each netted 22 goals. Only Mane scored all of his from open play.

Before that he had struck an impressive seven goals in the 2017/18 Champions League knockout stage – three versus Porto in the last 16, one v Man City in the quarter-final, two v Roma in the semi-final and one v Real Madrid in the final – as the Reds announced their return to the European Cup by going all the way to Kiev.

And he followed that up with four goals in the 2018/19 knockout stages, including his memorable double during Liverpool's 3-1 win against Bayern Munich in the Allianz, and by winning the penalty that allowed Mo Salah

to open the scoring in the final against Spurs. The one you sing about now thanks to a bit of inspiration from ABBA.

"Sadiooooooooo, Mane! Runnnng down the wing, Mane! Hear the Kopites sing, Mane! When we won it in Madrid."

Add to that two goals in the UEFA Super Cup final to help the Reds beat Chelsea in Istanbul – on penalties, of course – and an assist for Roberto Firmino's winner against Flamengo in Qatar to land LFC's first-ever FIFA Club World Cup and that's another medal around his neck.

Then, of course, came the one that we all wanted. The Premier League title.

Mane netted 18 league goals during that historic campaign, including the winning strike at Aston Villa when he put his head in where it hurts in stoppage-time just moments after creating Andy Robertson's equaliser.

He scored one and got two assists in the first half of the glorious 5-2 home win







against Everton, the only goal in 1-0 successes at home to Wolves and away to Norwich, plus Anfield winners at home to West Ham (for Liverpool to equal the top-flight record of 18 consecutive wins) and Bournemouth when a few backside had started to twitch after a 3-0 defeat at Watford.

Mathematically, that would have proved to be enough to win the league even before what happened next. But when football resumed after the coronavirus suspension it was Mane who netted the fourth in the Reds' 4-0 victory against Crystal Palace on the night before Jürgen Klopp's men were declared as *Campiones* after Man City lost at Chelsea.

But, just for a moment, go back to the aftermath of that 2-1 win against Leicester in October 2019 when, in addition to his goal, Sadio also won the penalty that James Milner converted in stoppage-time.

Jamie Carragher, speaking on Sky Sports, made a comparison that no Kopite who lived through the 1980s thought they would ever hear in their lifetimes.

"I always talk about the teams I played in that never possibly had, say, a John Barnes, that [kind of] world-class

wide player," he said. "But I think Liverpool have got that now.

"I think that's what's making the difference, why they are so good and look in a great position to hopefully go on and win the first Premier League. If you start comparing people like Sadio Mane to John Barnes then that shows how well he's doing.

"I absolutely love him, he's my favourite player at the club. He's brilliant. He's always got a smile on his face, always there, always gets knocked about, gets goals, setting others up.

"He's the one who came in at the very start under Klopp, his first real big signing, and I think ever since then he's just been getting better and better. He's just a machine."

John Barnes scored 108 goals in 407 games for Liverpool. Sadio Mane has now got 102 in 227 appearances. Incredibly, all of Mane's goals have come from open play whereas ten of Barnes' were from the penalty-spot and another five came from direct free-kicks.



Indeed, if you take penalties out of the equation, Salah only trails Mo Salah by 15 goals (102 v 117) and when the pair netted in the 2-2 draw against Manchester City, OPTA's Michael Reid conjured up the statistic that it was the 39th Liverpool game in which both players had scored.

Only one LFC strike duo can outdo that – Sir Roger Hunt and Ian St John, who both scored in the same game for the Reds on 48 occasions. And for the record, given Liverpool's recent success has been based on a front-three rather than two up top, Mane and Firmino have struck in the same game 24 times, Salah and Firmino 28.

So it is no wonder that after Mane hit his 100th goal in all competitions for Liverpool against Crystal Palace at Anfield last month – to also set a new Premier League record of scoring against the Eagles in nine consecutive games – that his manager was full of praise for the 29-year-old.

"People obviously forget but around these 100 goals he





worked incredibly hard, defended for us the wing, pressed high, counter-pressed, created goals, set up chances, all that kind of stuff," said Klopp.

"So the 100 goals are just one number, there are so many other numbers which are similarly important, but I'm really happy for him that he could reach that today.

"It is a massive achievement. In the glorious history of this club only 18 players – if that is right – scored 100 goals. That says a lot. Nowadays players are usually not that long in clubs so I am really happy that I could work now already for five years with Sad and he's just a top player."

Mane joked about his record against Palace after getting his tenth goal against them. "It would be great to play them every

single weekend! I am lucky to score so many goals against Palace.

"Most important thing was the three points. Right place, right time. I am lucky. And happy. Thank you to all the fans, club and staff. Without them I am nothing."

Perhaps the only thing to add is that after a less prolific 2020/21 campaign – although his 16 goals was still more than any Liverpool player scored in seasons 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 – there is still plenty more to come from Sadio Mane, who always plays for Liverpool with a smile upon his face.

Which is quite apt as the 2019 African Footballer of the Year has put a lot of smiles on all of our faces since he's been a Red.





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BRUS



PORTRAIT OF A



IAN RUSH

LEGEND

Would you believe that marksman supreme **Ian Rush** turns 60 on 20 October? His 14 years at Liverpool, bisected by a brief spell in Italy with Juventus, yielded medals, awards and goalscoring records galore. Mo Salah's the main man now, but Rushie remains the netbusting benchmark...



Rush won his first league title medal in 1981/82, aged 20, and here he is chasing goalscoring team-mate Kenny Dalglish in front of a rapturous Spion Kop



Powering in a shot on his marginally less-favoured left foot against Aston Villa at Anfield in September 1983



Rush scored the winner against Stoke City at Anfield in November 1983 but on this occasion he's thwarted by a super save from Potters keeper Peter Fox



Raising the European Cup aloft in Rome in May 1984





Scrambling back to his feet to celebrate the second of two goals against Norwich City in January 1985



Scoring in the 99th and 104th minutes of the FA Cup semi-final against Southampton at Tottenham's White Hart Lane in April 1986



And celebrating with King Kenny and co





Ian scored five goals across three FA Cup finals: two against Everton in 1986, another two against them in 1989, and one versus Sunderland in 1992





Bidding an emotional farewell to Anfield in May 1987 before joining Juventus (right), but returning to Liverpool for season 1988/89



On target in an FA Cup sixth-round tie at Queens Park Rangers in March 1990

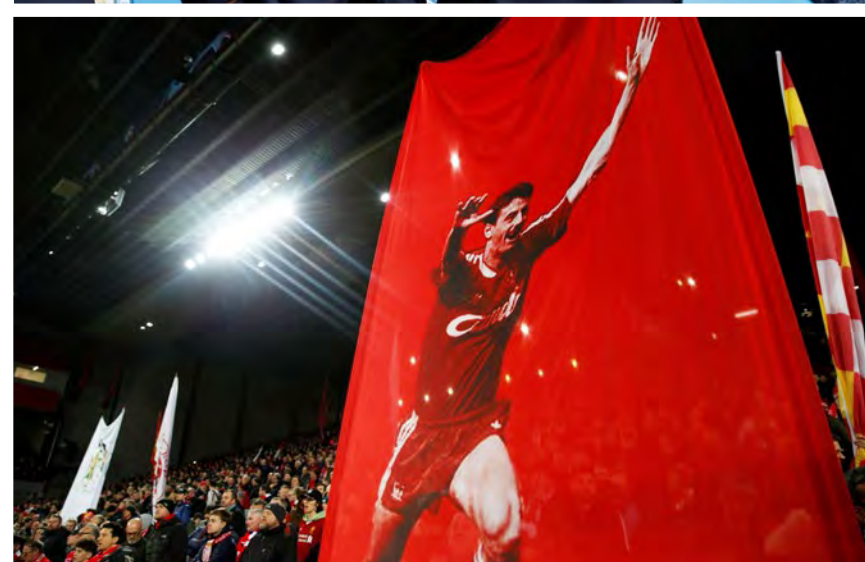




Throwing his shirt into the Kop after his 660th and final LFC appearance, against Middlesbrough at Anfield in April 1996. He'd scored 346 goals for the Reds, won five top-flight titles, a European Cup, three FA Cups and five League Cups. Still Liverpool's greatest goalscorer, bar none.



Proud and ready to present the Champions League trophy to the 2019 winners





HERE TO WIN

Ibrahima Konate on his Anfield debut, learning from Klopp and Van Dijk, and the dream of LFC silverware this season



Words: Chris McLoughlin





While Kopites were signing *You'll Never Walk Alone* before Liverpool's 3-0 win against Crystal Palace at Anfield last month, Ibrahima Konate was feeling lost for words.

Just moments earlier the Parisian-born defender had walked beneath the *This Is Anfield* sign and down the red-walled tunnel ahead of making his Liverpool debut. A big moment in the grand scheme of things. He'd heard the Kop sing YNWA before the games against Burnley, Chelsea and AC Milan, but this was different.

Ibou was sat on the bench on those occasions whereas now, with the no5 shirt on this back, the 22-year-old defender was in

the centre of the pitch as the noise rang around him. Even now, having had time to reflect on that experience, Konate can't find the words to describe the emotions it evoked.

"With the fans, I think it was amazing," he says. "I don't have a word to explain this feeling, but I have never had this feeling before in football.

"The atmosphere before the game when the fans sing...it is amazing, it is too much. In my heart it is... I don't have the word to explain this. The fans help us and I am very grateful."

Konate played well against the Eagles, one of the most physical sides in the Premier League, as the Reds won 3-0. The only moment of angst he had was late in the second half when Odsonne Edouard managed to shrug him off to get a shot away that Alisson saved.

Yet on closer inspection, replays showed that Konate actually



Andy Robertson has also helped, but what he said is just between Andy and me. I love him, he's like my brother. He's always trying to wind me up every day, he teases me. I'll come to the training ground and he will just stare at me for two minutes!

blocked the shot with his left foot to divert it off target before Liverpool's goalkeeper completed the job by pushing the ball around the post. Ali got the credit, but Konate did his bit too.

"Clean-sheets are the work of the team," he smiles when asked about the shut-out on his debut. "We work well together and we have to continue like that. I think I played well, but more important is how the team was – if we won, if we had a clean-sheet or not. That is more important for me and not my personal game."

Away from the pitch, Konate has also settled into life at his new club well. He told LFCTV: "I love the city – I was in the city-centre – and where I live, not so far in the car, I have the sea – very beautiful," and has quickly become a popular member of the Anfield dressing-room. Naturally, his fellow French-speaking team-mates helped him immensely during his first few months as he adapted to the English language, but it would seem that Konate has got to grips with it so well that he can even understand Glaswegian.

"I think everybody has made me feel welcome, but especially Sadio, Naby and Div because they speak French," he says. "I am with them the most because it was easier for me when I came to the club. They made it easier for me, but I am very happy with every player."

"Andy Robertson also helped, but what he said is just between Andy and me. I love him, he's like my brother. He's always trying to wind me up every day, he teases me. I'll come to the training ground and he will just stare at me for two minutes. I will say 'What is your problem, go away – I will see you one the pitch!' It is just stuff like this, he is crazy!"

Konate might need to spend a bit more time with Liverpool's right-back, however, as the Scouse accent has left his head 'chocca'. "I can understand him, Andy no problem, but the Scouse accent? No, no, no. In the first week I thought: these guys don't speak English, because I didn't understand. But with time yes, it is a little bit better, but not easy."

Another thing that hasn't necessarily been easy for the French Under-21 international is not being an automatic selection at centre-back. The returns of Virgil van Dijk, Joel Matip and Joe Gomez from injury means aside from that Crystal Palace game Konate's only other start so far in a Liverpool shirt came in another 3-0 victory, at Norwich in the Carabao Cup.

Understandably he wants to play but not only accepts that he must bide his time but says the challenge of proving he should be in Jürgen Klopp's team is one he relishes.

"For sure it is not easy because every player wants to play, you know? But I know I am young and I need to work to play. I was in Germany and now I am in Premier League in Liverpool, one of the best teams in the world."

"It is not easy to come and play automatically at Liverpool. I know Jürgen, I know what he does and of course I need to work. I hope with time this [my selection] will be automatic. I will work for this."

"Everything is good. I love the challenge and, for sure, Premier

League is not the same as German football. The intensity is different and you have a lot of big players here. It is not easy, but we play football for that."

It was Konate's displays in Germany for RB Leipzig that persuaded Liverpool to secure his services during the summer. Ralf Rangnick, currently manager of Lokomotiv Moscow, served as Leipzig's sporting director during Ibou's first season there in 2017/18 and as his manager in 2018/19.

Despite no longer being at the club when Liverpool came calling, it was Rangnick that Konate called for advice on whether it was the right move for him. They concluded that when you get the opportunity to play for Klopp at Liverpool you don't turn it down.







"I spoke with Ralf Rangnick. He was my coach and sporting director in Leipzig. I asked him what does he think about this move and we talked a lot. After this, I took my decision. He is the first person I spoke with and he thought it was a good decision to come here and play for Jürgen Klopp.

"Jürgen is a coach with a lot of experience and he knows what we have to do to win games. Sometimes you can lose, but this is football. You never know before the game if you will win or if you will lose, but with him we always know what to do and what we need to do to win.

"I am learning from him and I think this is just the start. In time I will learn a lot from him."

One of Konaté's ambitions is to one day be talked about in the same breath as one of his team-mates. As aims go, it doesn't get too much harder than wanting to be regarded as the best defender in the world in the same way that Virgil van Dijk currently is, but hearing the 22-year-old setting his sights as high as he can is refreshing.

"I cannot compare with Virgil because he showed to the world that he is the best defender in the world. I'm not, but I hope with time I can show this. Of course, this is my ambition."

Konaté also has ambitions to play for *Les Bleus*, the French national team. He has represented his home nation at U16, U17, U19, U20 and U21 level but has yet to win a full cap. At 22 years of age there is plenty of time for that to come and Ibou believes



I am learning from the boss
and this is just the start – in
time I will learn a lot from him

the key to getting his chance on the international stage lies in establishing himself in a Liverpool shirt.

"The first thing for me is the club," he says. "If you are good for the club you will go to the national team, especially if you are with a big team in Europe. I am focused on the club and I need to play more. I need to improve every day.

"For sure, playing for the national team is a dream for me and for my family. It has been very, very nice [playing at youth level for France] and every player I played with in the national team was my friend.

"When I was in Germany and I had to go to the national team it was very good for me because I was with my friends, who are like my family, but now I am at Liverpool and I am focused on the team. I am with big players in this team and I can just learn every day."

Personal ambitions aside, there is also a collective target for Konaté and his team-mates. Success. Ahead of Liverpool's Premier League clash against Manchester City at Anfield there was some stirring stuff penned by Klopp in his official matchday programme notes.

"Let me be clear," he wrote. "I think we are a proper team. I think we can beat any team in the world on any given day. That's how good we are also.

"We are powerful, we are ambitious, we are hungry for more and we have some of the best players in the world in our dressing-room. We have leaders from front to back that will be heading into today with nothing other than positive anticipation. And why not?

"We should start each season craving pressure games like this. It means we are in the race. It means we fight for things that are special."

Whether the outcome of that result proves in any way decisive in the title race remains to be seen, but for Liverpool to head into that top-of-the-table clash – league game seven of the season – as the only unbeaten side in the entire division suggests both the Reds are firmly in the hunt to be champions, and that no team is going to dominate.

Konaté had an idea of how tough the Premier League is from watching it on television in Germany and his debut against Crystal Palace confirmed it. However, he also believes – as do many of his team-mates – that Liverpool can be champions for the second time in three seasons, and he's ruling nothing out in the Champions League either.

"Before I came here I watched some games in the Premier League and sometimes you can see the last can win against the first of the Premier League.

"When I played against Crystal Palace, you know that the team against who you play, they know they can win against you. They don't care who you are. I think this is good in the Premier League – every game is difficult.

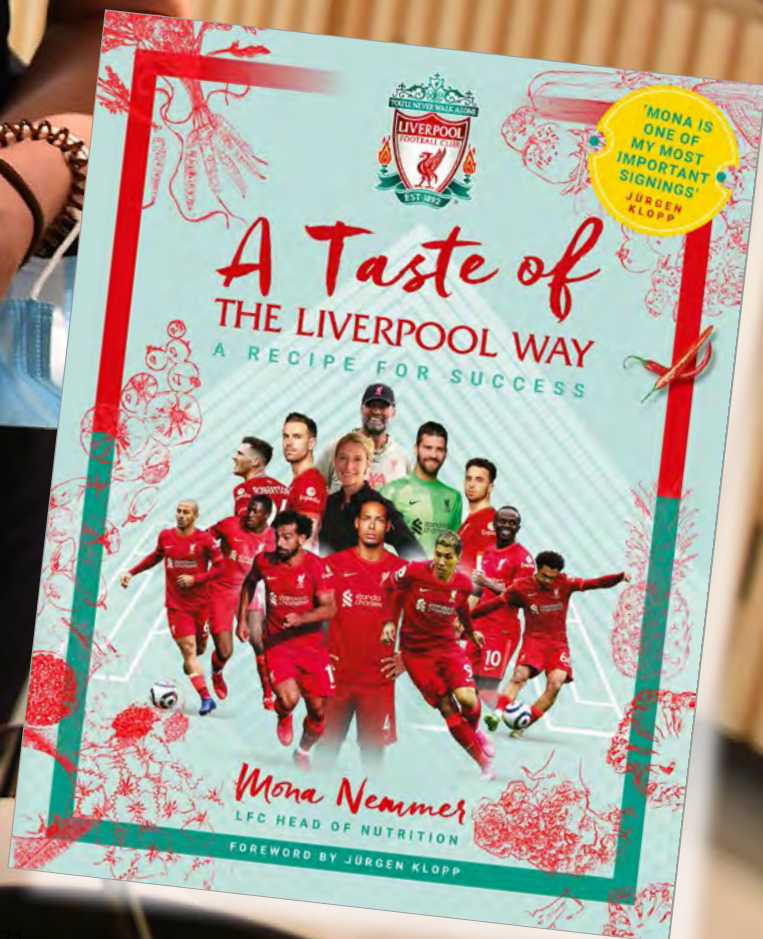
"Of course, who doesn't have this ambition to win the Premier League? But for now I think we need to be focused game-by-game. We have Premier League, we have Champions League – we have lots of games, but with this team I think we can do a big thing this season.

"Winning both is not easy. But if we can, then why not?"

A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

In this exclusive extract from her new book, Liverpool FC's head of nutrition Mona Nemmer explains how the club's senior stars and young prospects are learning more about good food





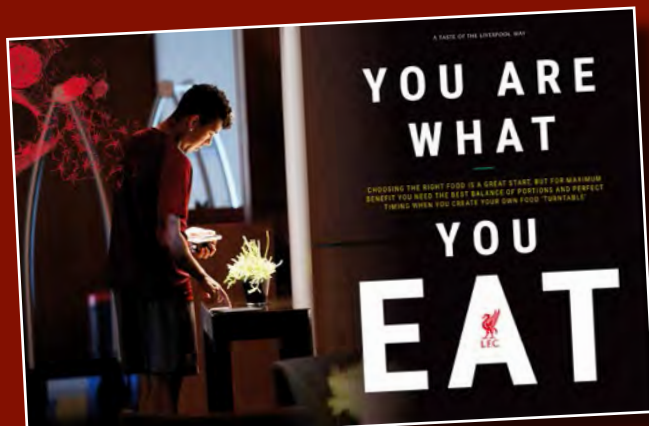
"IT'S MADE A HUGE DIFFERENCE"

Joe Gomez, one of several Reds stars in Mona's book who reveal their foodie secrets, says he's learned lots from her about the right things to eat and when to eat them.

"It's changed my whole perspective and outlook," he says. "I've learned about carbs, proteins, fats, minerals and my understanding has completely evolved.

"To be honest, when I joined the club I had just turned 18 and didn't have a clue about food. Now I have a far better understanding but I know there is so much more to learn. It's helped make a huge difference to football and professional sport in general as we understand better the importance of how food can aid recovery between matches and help keep us fit and sharp.

"Mona has been unbelievable and, as I say, she's helped change my outlook entirely."



"When you have players from lots of different countries as we do at LFC," writes Mona Nemmer in her new official book *A Taste of the Liverpool Way*, "it's very interesting not just from a nutritional point-of-view but culturally too.

"What kind of foods have they grown up eating? What do they like? What are they accustomed to eating – not just from home but from playing in other countries as well?

"Before we really start to look at a player's diet, we need to have a lot of information, a kind of food 'history' from the individual in question: his preferences and interests and the things he trusts. That's where we begin.

"Then, based on conversations, we do an analysis of his food 'traditions'. We look at what might be genetic-based, what is 'soul'-based – food that he associates with home and family and memories, for example – and also where any issues or problems might sit.

"Then we have the possibility to take samples like saliva, blood, urine and stools, and make things like subcutaneous fat [stored just under the skin] measurements.



"Eventually we will have what we call the complete 'portfolio' plus the player's own summary, and we can look at whether we need an adjustment of nutrition. Is it a medical and nutritional interaction? Is there a supplement-based issue, any deficiencies or inflammations in the body? So that's actually how we build up a nutritional profile.

"A former player of mine, from back in Germany, went to play in the Middle East and called me and left a message. He said the football wasn't going so well but the lifestyle was brilliant and could I send him a nutrition plan?! But it's impossible to do from such a distance and it would be unprofessional, too, without knowing his specific situation.

"Seasonal, locally-sourced food is fabulous and so important to what we do, but at the same time players don't have to adapt to an absolutely new diet just because they are in a different country. We are all so globally-connected these days that we can buy any type of food product from almost everywhere in the world, so the players don't really feel a huge difference in that respect.

"The differences are more emotional, really – the 'soul food' that I mentioned. What you grew up with and your memories. Maybe when you had a cold and your mum cooked something special at home. Specific smells or tastes that remind you – 'Just like Mama used to make!'

"Every player tends to have a routine that he trusts or likes to stick to. He might even be a little suspicious of something new. If something works for you and you have the feeling that you've prepared yourself in the right way, there's nothing wrong in that.

"When it comes to food-intake, some players are simply 'mono-

eaters! They are happy with having pasta every day and knowing its benefits. It's still one of the very classic things that players love to eat, especially on matchdays. What we might try to do is educate them to 'create the plate' a bit differently, using other carbohydrate sources.

"Likewise some players really love their food and like to try new things. Dejan Lovren was really into his cooking when he was here. Alisson Becker is a big fan of barbecues which is a friends-and-family thing: everyone getting together to enjoy the meal, have fun, listen to music – maybe Ali on his guitar!

"So food performs a social role. It's part of the entertainment. It makes people happy, especially when you're in a group.

"Lots of nationalities are like this. The Italians are famous for having big family dinners. The Spanish share tapas. The French have things like fondues – a melted cheese dish for everyone. But I guess it's all down to your personality and whether you like to have a lot of people around.

"It's nice to see the younger players taking an interest, too. Nat Phillips, for example, is very handy in the kitchen. When he was on loan in Germany he discovered and tried a vegan diet on his own.

"I think the next generation of players are becoming more aware about nutrition in this country. We have a curriculum at LFC, something we started compiling about five years ago now, and there's a progression it for young players to learn and understand more about food as they become older, along with practical workshops with chefs for different age-groups.

"For the older groups, especially if they are about to move out from their 'house parents' or normal parents and get their own place, there are things like how to prepare your breakfast at home, or how to create a pre-match snack.

"Obviously we speak to coaches and people in charge to manage these things around their diaries because they have school and home and training and it needs to fit in correctly. So pre-season and half-terms, when they have a bit more time, are really useful.

"And as well as learning, they are creating good habits and life-skills: how to behave and how to help each other too."



WIN THE BOOK!

In *A Taste of the Liverpool Way* the club's head of nutrition Mona Nemmer shows aspiring young footballers and fans of all ages how fresh seasonal food can help them to be healthy and strong like their heroes, explaining the basics of nutrition in a fun, easy-to-understand way.

Mona also takes us behind the scenes at Anfield and the AXA Training Centre to reveal some of the favourite recipes of Liverpool FC's modern-day superstars. With a foreword by Jürgen Klopp, it's a unique insight into one of the key factors behind LFC's exciting new era – and definitely one to put on the Christmas wish-list!

Better still, we've got three copies to give away. To be in with a chance of winning one, simply answer the following question:

IN WHICH COUNTRY WAS MONA NEMMER BORN?

Email your answer, name, address and contact phone number with **'TASTE OF THE LIVERPOOL WAY COMPETITION'** in the subject line to liverpoolfcmag@reachsport.com.

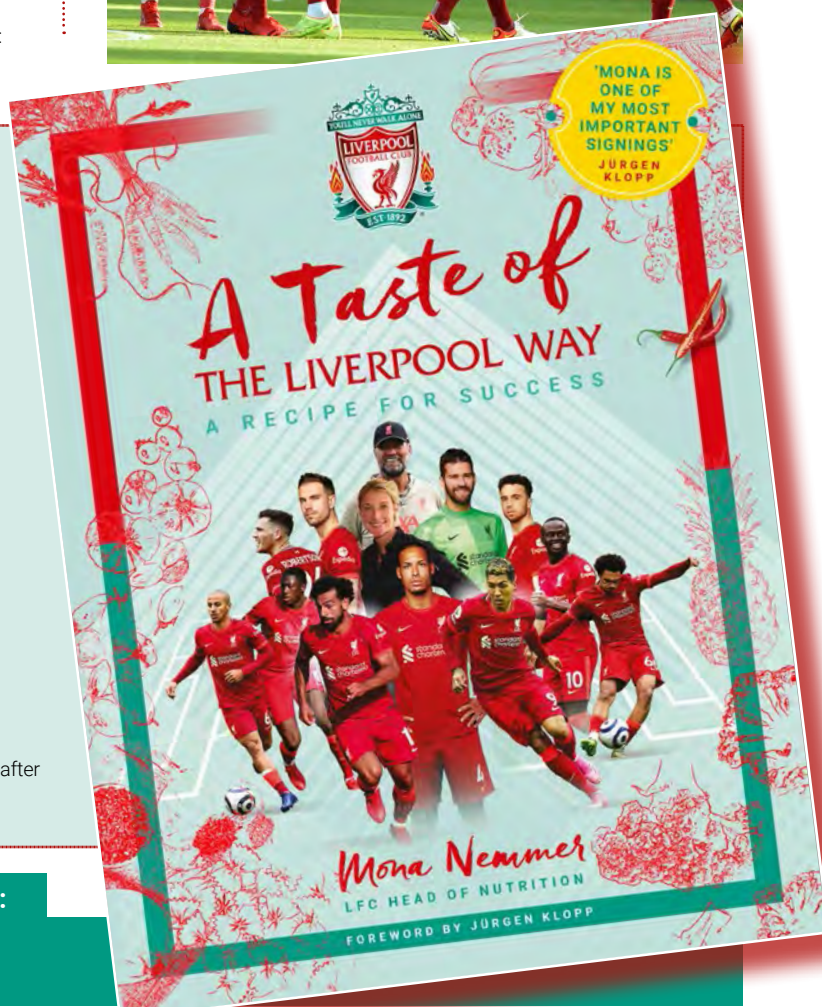
Closing date is Monday 1 November 2021.

Normal competition rules apply and winners will receive prizes ASAP after the closing date.

LAST MONTH'S COMPETITION WINNERS WERE:

DIAMONDS IN THE MUD BOOK:

P Hogan, Salford; M Dudley, Liverpool; A Watson, Carlisle.





THREE RED DIAMONDS

Focusing on the latest trio of players to graduate from the LFC Academy to the Reds' senior side

Last month's Carabao Cup victory at Norwich City saw three more Liverpool FC Academy products graduate to make their first-team debuts for the Reds.

Right-back Conor Bradley and winger Kaide Gordon both started in the 3-0 win at Carrow Road while midfielder Tyler Morton came off the bench to replace Naby Keita for the second half in East Anglia.

Bradley is already a full international having made his Northern Ireland debut against Malta in May. He won two further caps during the September international break.

The 18-year-old joined the Reds from Dungannon United in September 2019, signing his first professional contract once he turned 17 the following July.

He was a member of the Liverpool U18s squad that reached the FA Youth Cup final last season and also travelled with the

first-team squad for their pre-season trip to Austria this summer, featuring in the friendly game against VfB Stuttgart.

When he lined up against the Canaries, he became the first Northern Irish player to appear for the Reds senior side since forward Sammy Smyth in 1954.

"Conor, the first since 1954 – if somebody would have told me that before then I would have brought him probably earlier!" said Reds boss Jürgen Klopp after the match. "He played a super game."

Winger Gordon was still only 16 when he took to the pitch against Daniel Farke's side.

He joined the Reds from Derby County in February and scored on his Premier League 2 debut for the U23s at Leicester City in May. He was also a part of the Reds' pre-season camps, starting in the Anfield friendly against Osasuna in August.

"Yes, he's good, that's what it says about him – he's good,"



said Klopp of the youngster who turned 17 on 4 October.

"A lot of things to improve, a lot of things to settle, a lot of things to learn, but there's a lot of things already there. We are really happy to have him around and we will treat him carefully, let me say it like this. But I am really happy that he is here. He is a big talent."

Assistant-manager Pep Lijnders also spoke about the winger at his pre-match press conference ahead of the clash with Norwich.

"About Kaide, before pre-season we always make sure that our young talents start a week earlier than we start, so they start with the Under-23s training," he explained.

"So I went to watch U23s training and I saw one player and he was on fire each moment he touched the ball! He passes players like they are not standing there, so I call Jürgen immediately like, 'Wow, we have a new player here!'

"So we take all these young players to the pre-season and when do you know you have a good player around you? It's when the senior players start taking care of this young player. So when you see James Milner speaking with Kaide, when you see Trent becoming like a proper mentor, when you see that they invite him to sit on their table.

"All our boys invited him in our group and that made it not easy but it made it good for him, how to adapt to our team, to our style.

"He is what you see a lot with these





kinds of wingers – they can ‘outplay’, they can combine – but he has a goal in him and he has this natural ability to be in the box between the goalposts to score, even when the cross comes from the opposite side, for example. Not many talents have that.

“They maybe have dribbling skills but they don’t have this desire to shoot, to come in the box, to score. So he is a typical Liverpool Football Club winger, in my opinion, because he has goals, he has speed. We really like him and we are really happy he is with us.”

Morton meanwhile gave an assured performance in the middle of the pitch in his first 45 minutes of senior action, betraying his 18 years.

Hailing from Wallasey, he has been at the Academy since the age of seven and made his U23s debut last season.

He penned a new long-term contract with the club in January and, like Bradley, was a member of Marc Bridge-Wilkinson’s squad that reached last season’s FA Youth Cup final.

He also produced a wonderful pass that led to Melkamu Frauendorf’s equaliser at FC Porto in last month’s UEFA Youth League game in Portugal.

Earlier this year he spoke about how he and his Academy team-mates have benefited from having the first-team on the same site at Kirkby following their move to the AXA Training Centre.

“It’s fantastic knowing the first-team are so close to us now and all eyes are definitely upon us,” he said. “Anyone can be watching us at any time in training or the matches. You’ve got to perform at your best at all times and that’s the way it should be at Liverpool FC.

Speaking after the Carabao Cup clash at Carrow Road, manager Klopp added: “Tyler played really well, I have to say.

“I am really happy for the boys. It was a big one for all three. The first thing Kaide said to me after the game, when I wanted to say ‘congratulations’, he said to me: ‘Thank you!’

“I said: ‘Nothing to thank me for, you deserved it’. All fine, these boys are good and thank God they are ours.”

Players such as Trent Alexander-Arnold, Curtis Jones, Neco Williams, Rhys Williams and Harvey Elliott have all emerged from the Academy in

recent seasons to become part of the first-team squad and Lijnders believes that mining the next batch of diamonds is a mouthwatering prospect.

“I’m excited about our Academy. There are so many talents, diamonds, so many special players who just can’t wait to make the step so it’s important that we keep doing this because with one player we push, we inspire the whole Academy.

“So we have to keep this logic of the inside pathway. One, because we win players. And second, because we become a better team because young players will never let you down – never, never. They never did and they never will.”



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WALK ON



CLUB AND COUNTRY

It might just be a big, big season for Liverpool FC Women's vice-captain Rachel Furness as she looks to achieve success with both the Reds and her Northern Ireland national team

Interview: William Hughes

Fans of the LFC women's team know what Rachel Furness is all about. Her leadership qualities combined with a combative nature, strong aerial ability and a keen eye for goal make her a powerful opponent for anyone she comes up against.

Her return of 11 goals in 28 games for the Reds as of the end of September speaks volumes for the impact she has made with Liverpool since making the move from Reading FC Women in December 2019.

In the past couple of years, however, her contribution at international level has also helped transform the fortunes of Northern Ireland.

Although she was born in Sunderland, she is eligible to play in the green-and-white through her Belfast-born mum. Last month she scored in both Northern Ireland's opening qualifying games for the 2023 World Cup finals as she won her 77th and 78th caps. Her team

won both fixtures 4-0, defeating Luxembourg and Latvia respectively.

The goals took her overall tally to 33 and she now lies just three behind David Healy as Northern Ireland's all-time leading goalscorer.

The strike that sealed the win against Latvia was a coolly converted penalty and particularly special to her. "The game was played at Windsor Park, the men's national stadium, and I just think that's going to be massive going forward for women's football in Northern Ireland," she explains.

"It was just nice that we were playing at the national stadium and that we were being recognised in that sense. Yet again it's another leap forward for the women's game and another history making moment."

Ah, yes, making history. Back in April this year, Northern Ireland beat Ukraine 4-1 on aggregate in a play-off to reach the finals of the European Championships for the first time. Next summer's tournament will be staged in England and it caps a remarkable



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FOR ME, IT'S THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY CAREER TO QUALIFY FOR A MAJOR TOURNAMENT WITH MY COUNTRY. IT'S SOMETHING THAT AS A YOUNG GIRL YOU DREAM OF

journey for a country whose women's team was disbanded at the turn of the millennium. It was reformed in 2004 and Furness has been there almost from the start.

She accepted a call-up to represent them in an Under-17s tournament in the spring of 2004 and went on to play at U19s level too before making her senior debut in 2005. In November of that year Rachel scored her first senior international goal against Slovakia. It was also Northern Ireland women's first goal in a home match for 20 years.

'Furney', as she is popularly known around the Liverpool and Northern Ireland camps, has been a regular in the squad since.

The Euro 2022 qualifiers were a watershed moment for the progress of the women's game in the nation. Northern Ireland finished as runners-up to Norway in their group to progress to the play-offs with Furness contributing four goals along the way.

They finished on 14 points from eight games, the same record as Wales. In days past Northern Ireland would have been eliminated due to an inferior goal difference (zero to a Welsh plus-12).

However, the criteria now went on head-to-head away-goals. The teams had drawn both of their clashes but a goalless stalemate at Seaview, Belfast had been preceded by a 2-2 draw at Rodney Parade, Newport in September 2019.

To highlight the fine lines between sporting success and failure, Northern Ireland's equaliser in that particular game had been scored by Linfield defender Ashley Hutton in the fourth minute of added-time.



The play-offs proved to be a bittersweet affair for Furness. Drawn away from home first, she gave Northern Ireland a vital fifth-minute lead in Kovalivka but later sustained a serious injury which was to rule her out for the rest of the 2020/21 season.

The pain of her broken fibula was somewhat eased, however, when she learned that team-mate Simone Magill of Everton had completed a

2-1 victory in that first leg.

Although she had to watch on from the stands, Rachel was thrilled to see goals from Marissa Callaghan and Nadene Caldwell provide a 2-0 win in the return game in Belfast to secure her country's piece of history.

"Honestly, even now just speaking about it, gives me



goosebumps," she says. "It's a real honour that we've been able to achieve what we have."

"I played my part as I think I missed only one game out of the whole campaign and I felt a real part of the play-off win despite being injured. We've got a real family feel to Northern Ireland and I think that's how we've been successful. We fight for each other on and off the pitch."

"It's a fantastic achievement to reach the Euros and hopefully we are paving the way for the younger generation coming through."

"For me, it's the highlight of my career to qualify for a major tournament with my country. It's something that as a young girl you dream of and now to actually have the opportunity to play in a major tournament for my country is the greatest honour any player could want."

The exciting times keep on coming with Northern Ireland set to play at Wembley on 23 October when England follow their example by staging a women's fixture at the national base for the first time since the stadium's redevelopment. Five days after that, the draw for next summer's Euros will take place in Manchester.

"It's fantastic," continues Furness. "It will be great exposure to go to Wembley and then obviously the tournament next summer."

"They are exciting things to look forward to and it's motivation. Just getting back on the pitch this season for Liverpool is motivation enough but looking at how big this year is for club and country, I wake up every day excited for what's to come."

As well as enjoying her playing time under Kenny Shiels at international level, she's relishing working under Matt Beard with the Reds this season. It is testament to the high standards that she demands of herself that even at the age of 33, she is always looking to learn and improve.

"I am really enjoying it. Matt's got very high standards and I think

MATT BEARD HAS VERY
HIGH STANDARDS AND
I THINK THAT REALLY
PUSHES US IN TRAINING
TO BE BETTER



that really pushes us on in training. I know that I can be even better and that comes from management and the staff."

"I think we've seen from the opening weeks that it's going to be the most competitive Championship season yet. I think that we can take our experiences from last season and that can help the girls because we know it's going to be even tougher than last year."

"So it's just making sure that we are all prepared and ready for what's to come which is going to be a real tough battle of a season."

Furness has also enjoyed the opportunity to run out in front of the Liverpool supporters. Before the COVID-19 pandemic she had not played in front of the Reds fans at Prenton Park with her two home games being played at Blackburn and Chester.

"It's been great," she admits. "I've been at Liverpool for over a year-and-a-half now and I'd not fully experienced the fans before this season. I have in dribs-and-drabs but not fully. And I think for myself it's a massive part of why you play football. It's for the fans."

"I'm a massive fan of football myself, so I know how much it means to fans who are paying their own money to come and watch us play. So we will be fighting for them this season and it will be great to have our '12th person' supporting us and really pushing us on because it was greatly missed last year."

LIVERPOOL LINKS

While Rachel is starring for Northern Ireland on a regular basis, the year 2021 has also seen Conor Bradley representing the men's team.

The teenage right-back, who was handed his senior Reds debut in the Carabao Cup win at Norwich City last month, made his international bow against Malta in May and won two further caps against Estonia and Switzerland during the recent international break.

Conor is the fifth man to represent Northern Ireland while with the Reds and the first since fellow right-back Ryan McLaughlin back in 2014.

Prior to that, legendary goalkeeper Elisha Scott won 27 caps while with Liverpool between 1920 and 1936, while left-half David McMullan played three times for his country between 1925 and 1927.

Winger Bill Lacey was the first to play for Northern Ireland while on the books at Anfield, making a dozen appearances and scoring twice between 1909 and 1924.





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WIN WIN SITUATION

Words: Chris McLoughlin

If you've been supporting Liverpool for any length of time you'll know how international breaks go. At least one of our players gets injured, usually after playing for 94 minutes in a must-win friendly against Lithuania, but the September international break was different. Other than Harvey Elliott returning from it early with an injury, obviously.

Alisson, Fabinho and the injured Roberto Firmino didn't go away to play for Brazil due to COVID-19 restrictions. Without getting too bogged down in red lists, PCR tests and whatever else landed on black in the coronavirus rules roulette, the Brazilian trio would have to spend ten days in a quarantine hotel on their return to the UK if they visited Brazil, missing at least three Liverpool games.

There's something that the Kop wants you to know – that ain't gonna be happening. So they stayed in Liverpool.

Many of their international team mates did the same, irking the Brazilian FA to the point where they activated FIFA Rule 17.2.3 part c, subsection f, clause 93b: spitting your dummy out. Or, to put it another way, they (along with the governing bodies of other South American countries) wanted to stop those absent English-based players from appearing for their clubs.

So it looked like Liverpool would be going to Leeds without Ali, Fab and Bobby until the Brazilian FA finally withdrew their complaint after 'positive signals and constructive dialogue' received by FIFA from the UK government.

Quite what that meant was unclear, but they'll probably call it fly out to help out with 50 per cent off flights in October. Although as Brazil versus Argentina was abandoned after health officials entered the pitch due to some of the Argentines breaching COVID-19 protocol, anything could happen next month.

Other than that, it was a pretty standard international break. Virgil van Dijk and Jordan Henderson captained their countries, Sadio Mane and Diogo Jota scored for theirs, Conor Bradley made his debut for Northern Ireland and Naby Keita got caught up in a military coup in Guinea. As you do.

Thankfully a Liverpool spokesman confirmed Naby lad was "safe and well-cared-for" and he was able to fly out of Guinea ahead of the Reds trip to Elland Road. Which proved to be a bittersweet canal derby.

An early Alisson save from Rodrigo saw off an opening flurry of Bielsa ball from the hosts before the Reds took over. Without wishing to get carried away, Liverpool could've won 10-0. They were fiah!

A one-handed save by Ilan Meslier denied Jota another opening goal, but Leeds couldn't stop Joel Matip. In the 20th minute he cruised forward with the ball like a narrowboat on the Liverpool to Leeds Canal before slipping a pass to Trent Alexander-Arnold. The roving right-back slid a cross in and there was Mo Salah to notch his 100th Premier League goal.

Mo became the Premier League's 30th centurion and the





fifth-quickest to get to 100, joining Alan Shearer, Harry Kane, Sergio Aguero and Thierry Henry in the top five. Not bad for a winger.

Mane blazed a shot over and saw another effort flash past the post, Elliott had two quick-fire shots blocked, but early in the second half came a sickening moment.

Leeds substitute Pascal Struijk didn't mean to injure Elliott when he slid in to challenge him, but he left the talented teenager with a serious ankle injury.

You knew it was a bad one straight away by Salah's reaction and the fact that Reds physio Chris Morgan didn't even wait for the whistle to run on and treat him, reaching Harvey in seven seconds. Henderson later described Morgan as "two seconds quicker than Usain Bolt could run the 100m in his prime."

Most Leeds fans applauded as Elliott was stretchered off, a minority sang things they shouldn't. Struijk was dismissed.

Liverpool were already 2-0 up at this point, Fabinho lashing home the second from a corner after his initial effort was blocked, and then it became Mane v Leeds.

It hadn't been Sadio's day until the 90th minute when he swivelled onto Thiago's no-look pass and rifled the ball home to make it 3-0. It was his tenth shot on an afternoon when Liverpool had 30 efforts on goal, the most in an away game since 2009.

There was also some positive news emerging from Leeds General Infirmary. Elliott updated his Instagram followers with a shot of himself watching the second half on his phone and it later transpired that he gave his shirt and boots away to a fellow young patient. What a star.

A few days later, Harvey had surgery to repair his fractured ankle and damaged ligaments with the prognosis from club doc Jim Moxon sounding hopeful.

"We won't put pressure on him by setting a specific timeframe beyond being able to say with confidence we expect him to feature again later in the season following our rehab programme." See you soon our kid.

Next up: Champions League football and the first-ever clash between Liverpool and AC Milan at Anfield

Thirteen European Cups between us and we'd only ever met in finals. It somehow seemed hard to believe, so to mark the occasion the official matchday programme cover was simply the This Is Anfield sign.

It looked glorious and *You'll Never Walk Alone* – sung by AC Milan fans at the San Siro in the 1989 aftermath of the Hillsborough disaster – sounded magnificent with both sets of supporters joining in. The match was a cracker too.



Quite where Liverpool found the inspiration to come from behind to beat AC Milan we'll never know – it almost felt like it had happened before – but that's how things panned out in front of Anfield's first capacity Champions League crowd for 553 days.

Made to kick towards the Kop first, the Reds started like a volcano spewing lava towards Walton Breck Road.

Divock Origi, dusted off for his first start of the season, sliced an early effort wide and Jota sent another shot past the post before Alexander-Arnold forced the breakthrough when his attempted cross to Jota was sent looping over the AC Milan keeper by ex-Chelsea defender Fikayo Tomori.

Moments later, Andy Robertson's shot was blocked by the hand of Ismael Bennacer, but with Mike Maignan being the Milan goalie referee Szymon Marciniak pointed to the penalty spot.

Salah had converted his last 17 spot-kicks and needed to slot this home to equal Jan Molby's club record, but Maignan stopped it with his knees before keeping out Jota's diving header from the rebound.

Anfield responded by loudly singing Salah's name, but in the five minutes before half-time the Reds suddenly fell apart.



Ante Rebic equalised and just 110 seconds later I Rossoneri went ahead through a Brahim Diaz tap-in after Robertson blocked his initial effort on the line.

As Fabio Capello put it on Sky Italia, "I would say that the result in the first half was a lie for what Liverpool had shown."

It set up a thrilling second stanza that got off to a sizzling start when Salah latched onto Origi's pass and flicked the ball past Maignan to make it 2-2. Hello, hello, here we go.

That famous piece of Clive Tyldesley commentary came after Steven Gerrard's goal in Istanbul so it was somewhat fitting that it was his successor as skipper Henderson who fired home the 69th minute winner from the edge of the box after an Alexander-Arnold corner was cleared to him. It kept the boss happy too.

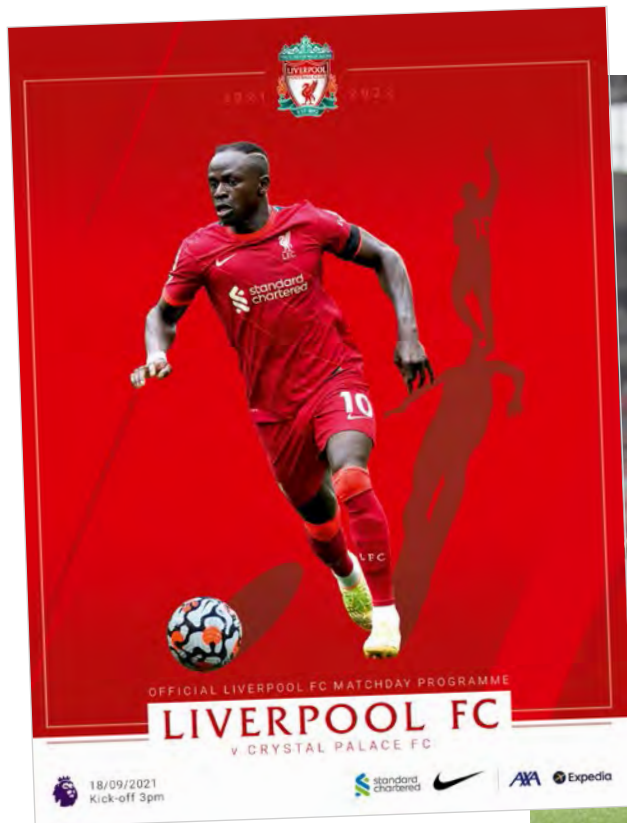
"Everyone knew before already, but now probably, definitely, everybody knows: AC Milan came from Pot 4 in this group – very funny!" said Klopp. "So, that's the quality in the group. It's really good that we won this game tonight because obviously you need each point in this group to get through."

Milan was Henderson's 199th game as Liverpool skipper and his 200th saw the Redmen rack up another Anfield win, this time against Crystal Palace on a special day for Mane.



Sadio likes seeing the Palace more than the Queen. His opening goal was his 10th against the Eagles and a Premier League record ninth consecutive game he's scored against them in. More significantly, it was also his 100th goal for the Redmen. Here's to Mane more.

With Alexander-Arnold ill – James Milner hilariously described it as 'Zaha-itis' – and Robbo rested, Milly and Kostas Tsimikas played at full-back and both were superb.



Other than Alisson making a crucial tip on to the post from him in the opening minutes, Zaha barely got a kick while two of the Reds' goals in a 3-0 win came from corners by the Greek Scouser.

One was Mane's opener, the other was Salah's nerve-settler – a far post finish after big Virgil flicked Tsimikas' corner on. Liverpool's third was an unerring Keita volley from the edge of the box after Eagles keeper David Guetta – or something like that – punched Salah's corner to him.

Naby looked more surprised than anyone that it went in



before breaking into a huge smile on a proud afternoon for Africa with three of their sons all on the scoresheet for the first time since the Reds whupped Huddersfield 5-0 in 2019.

Tell me Liverpool's next game was in the Carabao Cup without saying Liverpool's next game in the Carabao Cup. Easy. The travelling Kop had waited 18 months for a game at Norwich and then two came along at once, both ending in 3-0 wins.

Conor Bradley, Kaide Gordon and Tyler Morton (as a half-time sub) made their debuts, but it was Takumi Minamino and Caomhin Kelleher who provided the telling first half contributions. Taki put the Reds ahead after four minutes and shortly before half-time Kelleher produced a 'rabona' penalty





save to prevent Christos Tzolis from making it 1-1 from the spot.

Origi headed home a Tsimikas cross to make it 2-0 and in the 80th minute it was a case of Minamino, here we go again, why why, did Salzburg ever let you go? Apologies to Agnetha, Bjorn, Benny and Anni-Frid for that one.

It was also a big night for Curtis Jones, making his 50th LFC appearance, and Joe Gomez, who captained Liverpool for the first time.

"It was a massive honour," Gomez told Liverpoolfc.com. "Obviously after the period I've had, the different injuries and coming back, I'm relishing every minute and on top of that, to be able to captain the side was unbelievable. I really enjoyed it."

Potton Bowls Club in, er, Bedfordshire won a competition to host the fourth-round draw and Harry Redknapp and Micah Richards left Liverpool in the pot until last, sending us to Preston North End for the Neil Mellor derby. Whatever happened to him?

Closer to home, Liverpool announced that the proposed redevelopment of the Anfield Road end will go ahead with the first spade in the ground due before the end of the month.

When completed in 2023, we'll have another 7,000 seats and a capacity of 61,000. To put that into a bit of geeky context, Anfield's record crowd for a league game is 58,757 against Chelsea in 1949, although the club record stands at 61,905 for

an FA Cup tie against Wolves in 1952. Bet that was tricky trying to get a half-time pie.

Tell you what else is tricky, Brentford away when they throw a bit of chaos into the mix by adopting an unorthodox 2-1-7 formation when goalkeeper David Raya has the ball at his feet.

Quite simply, Liverpool's first ever visit to the Brentford Community Stadium was one of those bonkers, nonsensical games that football throws up every so often. And even though it finished 3-3, it was enthralling to watch.

Kristoffer Ajer and Matip had already made early goal-line clearances when Ethan Pinnock snuck in at the far-post to give the hosts the lead.

Jota headed the yellows – how good is our new third kit by the way – level from a Henderson cross before Jones struck the post and Raya made a save-of-the-season contender to deny Jota from the rebound.

Salah, described by the boss as "a goal machine" ahead of the game, made it 2-1 in the 54th minute from Fabinho's pass. He was initially flagged offside, but VAR spotted ex-Red Sergi Canos was playing him on and Salah had his 100th top-flight goal for Liverpool, reaching the century faster than anyone else. Also not bad for a winger.

Then Thomas Frank's men showed their bravery. That seven-man forward line overloaded Liverpool on both wings, resulting in a cross from our left creating a 3v1 in the Bees favour at the far post. Alisson's crossbar kept out the first effort, but Vitaly Janelt headed home from close range.

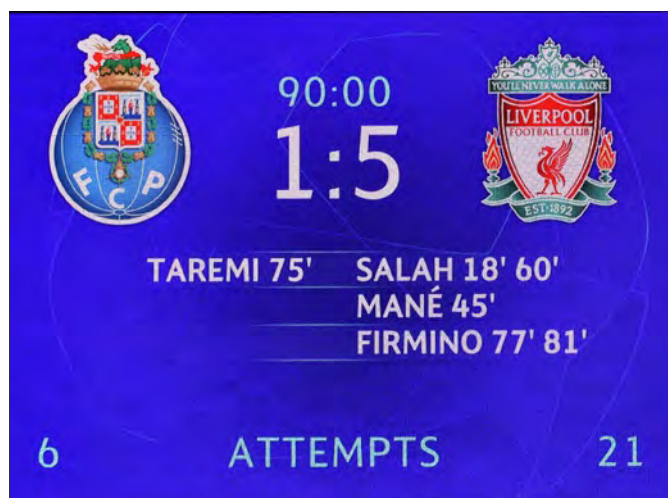
Such a bullish attacking strategy also gave Liverpool space to play in and Jones took advantage, making it 3-2 with a deflected shot. Moments later, Salah scampered through again from Mane's pass, but this time he chipped his shot onto the roof of the net.

Brentford threw the next punch and it landed, Yoane Wissa scrambling in another equaliser from a cross to the far-post, and in the final stages anything could have happened.

Raya somehow prevented Pontus Jansson from scoring an own-goal from Mane's cross, Ivan Toney got into a 1v1 with Van Dijk only to discover why he's the best defender in the world, and the Liverpool-supporting striker also had a shockwave sending winner disallowed for offside.

Quite what was said post-match will forever remain a mystery as every Kopite who lived that pulsating 90 minutes spent the next few hours lying down in a dark room





contemplating whether crocodile wrestling or tightrope walking is less stressful than supporting Liverpool.

But then here we still are and there the Reds were in Porto again a few days later, scoring goals at will. Porto 0-5 Liverpool (2018), Porto 1-4 Liverpool (2019) and now Porto 1-5 Liverpool (2021) in Estadio do Dragao. Maybe it was Liverpool who made dragons extinct rather than St George?

Porto keeper Diogo Costa had an absolute mare, conceding twice to Salah, once to Mane and twice to substitute Roberto Firmino with Bobby's first goal coming after the Portugal Under-21 international dashed out of his box, got caught in no-man's land and dashed back to claw the ball out, just after it had crossed the line.

Even so, a 5-1 away win in any Champions League game is an outstanding result and it came on the same day that Liverpool lost a legend in Sir Roger Hunt.

Knighted by the Kop, Hunt struck 285 goals for the Reds and Klopp described him as "second to no-one in his importance in the history of Liverpool FC." Which is some accolade.

In the days that followed, as Klopp himself dug the first spade into the ground to get the Anfield Road expansion underway, Kopites made plans to honour Sir Roger with a Kop mosaic at the next home game against Manchester City.

That was some match too and featured a very special goal, but you'll have to read this journey hunter's October entry next month...

THE MONTH AHEAD

OCT/NOV

WHAT'S ON



WINTER WITH MADRID

A Champions League double-header with Atletico Madrid plus Premier League trips to Old Trafford and the London Stadium are among the highlights of the Reds' next run of fixtures.

Jürgen Klopp's side will be looking to continue their early-season progress when they play matches in three different competitions before the November international break.

They return to the Wanda Metropolitano Stadium in Madrid for the second time since the memorable 2019 Champions League triumph, this time to take on Diego Simeone's Atletico on Tuesday 19 October with the Anfield return just over a fortnight later on Wednesday 3 November.

The midweek in-between will see Liverpool playing in front of the Bill Shankly Kop with a Carabao Cup fourth-round clash at Preston North End taking place at Deepdale on Wednesday 27 October.

The schedule also includes four Premier League fixtures with three of them away from home. First up is a lunchtime kick-off at Watford on Saturday 16 October before the Reds make the short trip down the M62 to take on Manchester United on Sunday 24 October.

There is a rare Saturday 3pm kick-off at Anfield to see out the month when Brighton are the visitors on 30 October before the Reds travel to West Ham United on Sunday 7 November.



SEPT/OCT

WHAT'S ON



ALL THOSE YEARS AGO...

ANNIVERSARIES

6 years since Jürgen Klopp's first home match as Liverpool FC manager on 22 October 2015.

11 years since FSG took ownership of the club on 15 October 2010.

34 years since Ray Houghton joined the Reds on 19 October 1987.

37 years since Ian Rush scored five against Luton Town on 29 October 1983.

56 years since Liverpool defeated Juventus 2-0 in a European Cup Winners' Cup tie at Anfield on 13 October 1965.

129 years since Matt McQueen and brother Hugh made their debuts in LFC's first FA Cup tie at Anfield on 29 October 1892.

And it's 12 years since a memorable 2-0 win over Manchester United at Anfield on 25 October 2009...

The 2009/10 season will not spark too many happy memories for Reds fans but the 2-0 home defeat of Manchester United at Anfield was one of them.

Rafael Benitez took charge of his 200th Premier League game as Liverpool registered a 2-0 victory over their North West rivals.

Fernando Torres opened the scoring after 65 minutes when Yossi Benayoun's pass sent the Spaniard beyond United defender Rio Ferdinand. He held off the England centre-back and lashed a shot into the roof of the net with ferocious power.

Nemanja Vidic became the first player to be sent off against the Reds in three successive fixtures when he picked up a second yellow card for pulling back Dirk Kuyt, while Javier Mascherano also saw red in stoppage-time after a challenge on United keeper Edwin van der Sar earned him a second booking.

But seconds after seeing the Argentinian receive his marching orders, the home fans were jubilant as substitute David Ngog ran onto Lucas' pass to beat Van der Sar and bag Liverpool's 200th league goal against United. Goalkeeper Pepe Reina raced the length of the field to celebrate with the Frenchman.

DERBY DUEL

A mini-derby at home to Everton on Saturday 30 October is among many standout fixtures for Liverpool's Under-18s over the coming weeks.

Marc Bridge-Wilkinson's side also continue their UEFA Youth League campaign when they play their double header against Atletico Madrid and the young Reds are also in cup action on Saturday 16 October when they visit Aston Villa in the Premier League U18s Cup.

In addition to their derby date with Everton, the 18s also make the trip to Manchester City for a league game on Saturday 23 before they host Middlesbrough on Saturday 6 November.



"From the keeper to the last fan on the Kop, we weren't going to be beaten," said a defiant Benitez afterwards. "The players just did not want to lose and this was the perfect response. With the fans getting behind the team, we had 12 men on the pitch. We answered a lot of questions."

BIRTHDAYS

Niamh Fahey 34 on 13 October

Ben Woodburn 22 on 15 October

Leighton Clarkson 20 on 19 October

Chris Lawler 78 on 20 October

Ian Rush 60 on 20 October

Rianna Dean 23 on 21 October

David Johnson 70 on 23 October

Fabinho 28 on 23 October

Willie Stevenson 82 on 26 October

Milan Baros 40 on 28 October

Jimmy Melia 84 on 1 November

Rachael Laws 31 on 5 November





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FIXTURES 2021/22

AUGUST

Sat 14

Sat 21

Sat 28

SEPTEMBER

Sun 12

Wed 15

Sat 18

Tue 21

Sat 25

Tue 28

OCTOBER

Sun 3

Sat 16

Tue 19

Sun 24

Wed 27

Sat 30

NOVEMBER

Wed 3

Sun 7

Sat 20

Wed 24

Sat 27

Tue 30

DECEMBER

Sat 4

Tue 7

Sat 11

Wed 15

Sat 18

Wed 22

Sun 26

Tue 28

JANUARY

Sat 1

Wed 5

Sat 8

Wed 12

Sat 15

Sat 22

FEBRUARY

Sat 5

Wed 9

Sat 12

Tue 15/Wed 16

Sat 19

Tue 22/Wed 23

Sat 26

Sun 27

MARCH

Wed 2

Sat 5

Tue 8/Wed 9

Sat 12

Tue 15/Wed 16

Sat 19

Sat 19

APRIL

Sat 2

Tue 5/Wed 6

Sat 9

Tue 12/Wed 13

Sat 16

Sat 16

Sat 23

Tue 26/Wed 27

Sat 30

MAY

Tue 3/Wed 4

Sat 7

Sat 14

Sun 15

Sun 22

Sat 28

Norwich City (A, 5.30pm)

Burnley (H, 12.30pm)**Chelsea (H, 5.30pm)**

Leeds United (A, 4.30pm)

AC Milan (H, UCL Matchday One, 8pm)**Crystal Palace (H, 3pm)**

Norwich City (A, Carabao Cup 3, 7.45pm)

Brentford (A, 5.30pm)

Porto (A, UCL Matchday Two, 8pm)

Manchester City (H, 4.30pm)

Watford (A, 12.30pm)

Atletico Madrid (A, UCL Matchday Three, 8pm)

Manchester United (A, 4.30pm)

Preston North End (A, Carabao Cup 4, 7.45pm)

Brighton & Hove Albion (H, 3pm)**Atletico Madrid (H, UCL Matchday Four, 8pm)**

West Ham United (A, 4.30pm)

Arsenal (H, 5.30pm)**Porto (H, UCL Matchday Five, 8pm)****Southampton (H, 3pm)**

Everton (A, 7.45pm)

Wolverhampton Wanderers (A)

AC Milan (A, UCL Matchday Six, 8pm)

Aston Villa (H)**Newcastle United (H)**

Tottenham Hotspur (A)

Carabao Cup 5

Leeds United (H)

Leicester City (A)

Chelsea (A)

Carabao Cup S-F 1

Emirates FA Cup 3

Carabao Cup S-F 2

Brentford (H)

Crystal Palace (A)

Emirates FA Cup 4

Leicester City (H)

Burnley (A)

UCL Ro16 1

Norwich City (H)

UCL Ro16 1

Arsenal (A)

Carabao Cup Final

Emirates FA Cup 5

West Ham United (H)

UCL Ro16 2

Brighton & Hove Albion (A)

UCL Ro16 2

Manchester United (H)

Emirates FA Cup 6

Watford (H)

UCL Q-F 1

Manchester City (A)

UCL Q-F 2

Aston Villa (A)

Emirates FA Cup S-F

Everton (H)

UCL S-F 1

Newcastle United (A)

UCL S-F 2

Tottenham Hotspur (H)

Emirates FA Cup Final

Southampton (A)

Wolverhampton Wanderers (H)

UCL Final

SCORE

TV

SCORERS

3-0

Sky

Jota, Firmino, Salah

2-0**BT****Jota, Mane****1-1****Sky****Salah (pen)**

3-0

Sky

Salah, Fabinho, Mane

3-2**BT****Tomori (og), Salah, Henderson****3-0****Mane, Salah, Keita**

3-0

Sky

Minamino 2, Origi

3-3

Sky

Jota, Salah, Jones

5-1

BT

Salah 2, Mane, Firmino 2

2-2**Sky****Mane, Salah**

BT

BT

Sky

Sky

BT

Sky

Sky

BT

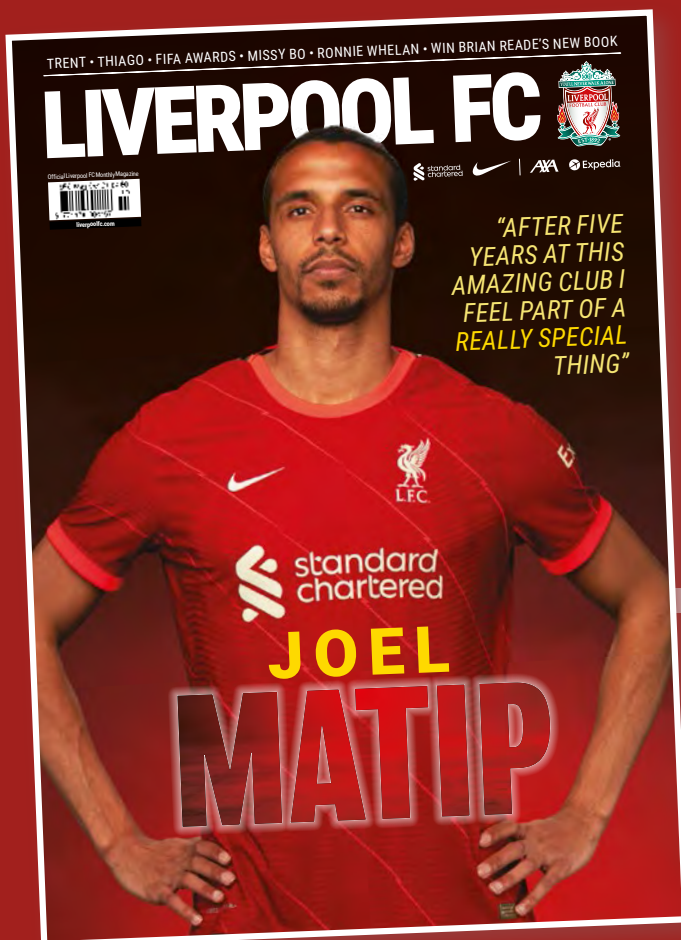
BT



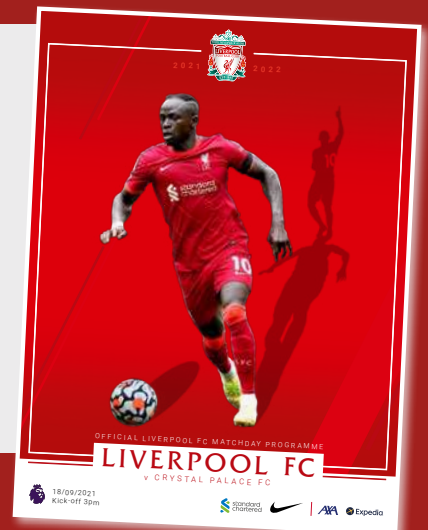
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NEIL MELLOR

When I was at Liverpool I got my first senior opportunities in the League Cup and really enjoyed it – and today's young prospects at LFC are doing the same

Liverpool and Preston North End are two football clubs that mean a great deal to me so it's difficult to describe how I feel about them being paired together in the Carabao Cup at Deepdale.

I was given my chance in football by Liverpool and it is the club I work for now, but I played more games for Preston, had an enjoyable time there and always look out for them. I want to see them do well, but Liverpool will always be my first love and where my passion is.

So it's a strange fixture for me, as it was in 2009 when Liverpool went to Deepdale in the FA Cup. I was with Preston at the time and played in the game, although I used the word 'played' loosely.

I was carrying an injury and ahead of the game I remember practising taking a penalty the day before. I couldn't kick the ball from the penalty-spot to the goal. I had a double hernia and knew I needed an operation, but I was never going to miss playing against Liverpool so I took tablets and an injection to get through it.

The game was a special occasion because it was the first time I'd faced Liverpool since leaving in 2006 and the travelling Kop were absolutely brilliant to me. They were really supportive and it was quite emotional for me. I remember thinking: what if I score – what do I do?

Thankfully it didn't happen, which I know sounds strange for a striker to say, but the Liverpool fans were brilliant to me that day and I'll never forget it.

Rafa Benitez fielded a strong side with Steven Gerrard starting, but I fully expect Jürgen Klopp to give further opportunities to his young players when the Reds return to Deepdale in the Carabao Cup. It is absolutely the right thing for him to do.

The Carabao Cup is way down our list of priorities and allows fringe players and young players to get game-time and an opportunity to impress. They certainly impressed in the 3-0 win at Norwich and deserve another chance.

Kaide Gordon, who only recently turned 17, has burst onto the scene since arriving from Derby and did well in pre-season. Conor Bradley has done extremely well in the Youth Cup and U23s over the last 12 months. Tyler Morton also deserved his chance and got it because the relationship between first-team and Academy is probably the strongest it has ever been.

Perhaps one of the reasons that Kaide came to Liverpool was because he knew he'd get opportunities here. He was very much in demand, so maybe because Liverpool have proven they give younger

Academy players an opportunity he moved here. If you're good enough the pathway is there, as proven by Trent Alexander-Arnold, Curtis Jones and Harvey Elliott.

When I was at Liverpool I got my first opportunities in the League Cup and really enjoyed it. I was part of the 2003 winning team, scored in the semi-final at Sheffield United and got a medal when in the squad of 17 for the final victory against Manchester United.

In 2004/05 I played against Millwall, Middlesbrough and Spurs, but then the first-team came back in for the semi-final first leg at Watford. That may seem harsh on young players, but you know that if you get to the latter stages the big players will come back in. It's why I was so pleased I played in the semi-final in 2003 – and the second leg against Watford in 2005 – because it was unusual for a young player to start such games.

If Liverpool continue to progress in the Carabao Cup then the manager will have similar decisions to make, but one man who could keep his place throughout the cup run is Caoimhin Kelleher.

Second-choice goalkeepers tend to play in the Carabao Cup and for Kelleher to genuinely be second choice to Alisson at the age of 23 shows how well he has progressed. He's a likeable character with a great attitude, but Kelleher is also a very good goalkeeper.

He played well in the Premier League and Champions League last season and is trusted by the manager, his team-mates and the crowd. Alisson is one of the best goalies in the world and will always be missed when not playing, but Kelleher is an able deputy.

He's good with his feet and makes great reaction saves, but we don't yet know how good he can be. The only way to find out is if he plays and games like Preston away in the Carabao Cup provide the perfect opportunity.





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